

BRITISH MUSLIMS IN NUMBERS: A STATISTICAL COMPENDIUM

DEMOGRAPHIC, EDUCATION, HEALTH & SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE
OF MUSLIMS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH AN ANALYSIS OF
20-YEAR TRENDS & REGIONAL VARIATIONS



MCB MUSLIM COUNCIL
OF BRITAIN

VOLUME ONE

Cover page image: The up and coming Salaam Centre in the London Borough of Harrow is setting the standard for the next generation of community projects that will serve as a place of Muslim worship and a multi-faith, neighbourhood hub. Its graceful exterior will house dedicated spaces for youth, children and lifelong learning, as well as a café, seminar rooms, a gym and a roof garden for contemplation. The Salaam Centre partners with MCB affiliate the Shia Ithna'ashari Community of Middlesex, whose current range of activities include a soup kitchen, interfaith events, tuition classes at GCSE and A level, elderly citizen circles and health seminars. The Salaam Centre's futuristic architecture complements the MCB's own vision of fostering innovation and serving society more widely through developing skills and promoting civic engagement.

Acknowledgement for image: Trustees of the Salaam Centre.

British Muslims in Numbers – A Statistical Compendium

**A report prepared by the Muslim Council of
Britain's Research & Documentation Committee.**

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The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), founded in 1997, is an inclusive umbrella body of over 500 mosques, charities, professional networks and more, representing a large cross-section of Muslims in the UK today.

We are pledged to work for the common good of society as a whole, encouraging individual British Muslims and Muslim-led organisations to play a full and participatory role in public life. Our long-standing vision is to empower British Muslim communities to achieve a just, cohesive and successful British society.

As part of MCB's Vision 2050, we are taking that commitment even further with three goals:

Unite: We are dedicated to forging a shared sense of purpose among British Muslims, encouraging collaboration and community building while respecting our diverse perspectives.

Inspire: We aim to empower our communities by fostering innovation, developing skills, and creating opportunities in every sector – from healthcare and technology to education and civic engagement.

Serve: We commit to uplifting not only the British Muslim community but also the wider British society, working together to build a just, cohesive, and successful future for all.

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| FOREWORDS

Empowered by Data

This report assembles the data from the most recent Census of 2021 (2022 in Scotland), with comparisons with the past Census of 2001 and 2011, to serve as an easily accessible source document on the nation's Muslim population.

The completion of the Census questionnaire by every household every 10 years is an incredibly rich source of social statistics, particularly for the minority faith and ethnic populations. From the MCB's perspective, Census data is invaluable for evidence-based policy making by our public bodies, and for promoting self-awareness and self-understanding within Muslim civil society.

Much has changed in our social landscape in the past twenty years. This report does not shy from presenting the facts: the Muslim population in the United Kingdom has more than doubled since 2001, and in 2021 stood at 4 million, or 6% of the total population. It is a predominantly urban population, residing in the inner city areas, too often in conditions of deprivation and poverty compared with the rest of society. This report places such findings in context, for example with respect to age distribution and settlement patterns.

Dr Wajid Akhter
MCB Secretary General



The report also has another story to tell of a population with its roots in the country with more than half British born, 94% unequivocal of their British national identity, with graduate level educational attainment at par with the rest of society (32% and 34% respectively) and for whom 99% English is the main language or spoken well or very well in England and Wales.

So a hallmark of British Muslims is their resilience in rising above disadvantage – there are the green shoots of social mobility in the making. There are Census facts about British Muslims which are news even to the MCB: that our own diversity includes Roma and Irish Traveller Muslims; that in Scotland there are 9,000 Muslims who also speak, read and write Scots, while in Wales there are 2,800 Muslims with similar abilities in Welsh.

Census data is a starting point for wider conversations about diversity, identity, population growth, equality of opportunities, the future of families and a host of issues pertinent for an inclusive modus vivendi. Census data enables us to understand the present and prepare for the future.

From the MCB's perspective, Census data analysis is empowering. It shows how the Muslim population's youthful age profile is a strategic asset in an ageing society – often termed the demographic dividend. Muslims, as a community of communities, are a microcosm of the plurality and diversity within the United Kingdom.

“Muslims, as a community of communities, are a microcosm of the plurality and diversity within the United Kingdom.”

The MCB is indebted to the Office for National Statistics for making Census output on England and Wales freely available, together with tools for data extraction and analysis. Similar acknowledgements are due to the National Records of Scotland and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency for their respective nations' Census data. The MCB's Research and Documentation Committee (ReDoc) welcomes this opportunity to place its analysis in the public domain. It is a follow up to *British Muslims in Numbers (2015)* based on the 2011 Census.

Feedback and comments are invited, and further work and updates will be reported via its website: <https://mcb.org.uk/features/muslims-in-british-census/>

Thinking beyond this decade

I would like to congratulate the MCB and the authors of this new report for producing such an invaluable and rich source of information about Muslims in Britain. As one of the most well-established, reputable, and credible British Muslim organisations, the MCB has consistently championed the interests and needs of Muslims in the UK. No serious academic scholarship takes place about Islam and Muslim communities in Britain without reference to the meticulous research undertaken by the MCB, with this excellent report following the previous, and equally valuable *British Muslims in Numbers* in 2015. I have yet to examine a postgraduate degree that has not drawn, in some way, on MCB Census data reports. Furthermore, it is only by drilling down into the details of Census data that policy needs, generational trends, and future projections can be squarely evaluated.

But aside from this general commendation, there are two reasons why I can especially commend the value and importance of this report. The first is the painstaking rigour and scholarly integrity that underpins what is presented in the following pages. At a time when so much (mis) information about British Muslims can be downloaded from internet sources, some of which is derived



Prof Sophie Gilliat-Ray
OBE, FBA, FLSW
Cardiff University

“This report should prompt us all to think well beyond this decade, and to fully consider the measures necessary now to ensure the continuity of reliable and rigorous information in future.”

from ‘hit and run’ ChatGPT and other superficial AI sources, it is becoming harder to properly evaluate the provenance, quality and reliability of information. But the long-standing and trusting relationship between the MCB and the Islam-UK Centre here at Cardiff University makes it easy for me to endorse this new report, knowing the depth and excellence of research that underpins it. The work that sits behind this new report takes many months of detailed, highly skilled

analysis by researchers who appreciate the necessity of ethical standards, attention to detail, and the capacity to triangulate data sources at an advanced level to properly inform their work. I would like to thank them for doing this, not least because many of them do it voluntarily.

This brings me to my second point. **If the Muslim community in Britain is to flourish in the future, this requires sustained investment in the academic careers and skills development of researchers who will build on, and take this kind of research forward in future.** I wholeheartedly support the recommendation made at the end of the report in relation to capacity building in relation to quantitative (and, I may add, qualitative) research and analysis. At a time when the university sector is under such immense financial pressure, especially in the social sciences, arts, and humanities, the continued support of British Muslim researchers and academics remains vital in order that we retain some ownership in the production of high-quality scholarly knowledge about our communities. This report should prompt us all to think well beyond this decade, and to fully consider the measures necessary now to ensure the continuity of reliable and rigorous information in future. The data presented here which, for the first time offers a truly longitudinal perspective based on comparison with 2001 and 2011 data is agenda-setting and challenging and will sit at the heart of British Muslim Studies for at least the next 10 years.

I feel honoured to have been invited to write this Foreword; I hope its findings will enable the flourishing and prosperity of British Muslim communities in the years to come, thereby building on some of the very solid and heartening ‘green shoots’ identified in the report.

| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Kingdom's ten-yearly Census has included a question on religion since 2001. This report draws on the 2021 Census of England & Wales and Northern Ireland, and the 2022 Census of Scotland, to provide a statistical profile of British Muslims in all four nations, together with an analysis of trends over the last twenty years, and where appropriate, interfaith and ethnicity comparisons.

1. There are 4 million Muslims in the United Kingdom, forming 6% of the population:

England, 3.8 million; Wales, 67,000; Scotland, 120,000; Northern Ireland, 11,000.

2. The age profile of the Muslim population in the UK is skewed towards the younger age bands.

While in the overall population, 29.0% is under the age of 25 years, in the Muslim population, it is 45.9%. In the overall population, 18.6% is aged 65 years and over; in the Muslim population, it is 4.8%. In an ageing society, the youthful Muslim population is meeting gaps in the labour market and contributing to the welfare system.

3. The majority of Muslims are UK Born – 50.8% compared with 84% in the overall UK population. Of the UK's 10 regions, Yorkshire & The Humber and West Midlands, have the greatest proportion of UK Born Muslims, 59.6% and 56.6% respectively.

4. 93.9% of the UK Born Muslim population in England & Wales state a UK national

identity only; for the overall population in England & Wales it is 97.6%. In Scotland, this is 88.8% (96.4% overall); in Northern Ireland, it is 81.3% (99.0% overall). In the non-UK Born Muslim population in England & Wales, 55.0% state a UK national identity only; for the overall non-UK Born population, it is 42.3%; in Scotland, this is 44.9% (33.0% overall); in Northern Ireland, it is 27.8% (24.0% overall).

5. In the UK Born Muslim population in England & Wales (aged 3 years and over), English is the main language or spoken well or very well by 99%. Including all Muslims (UK Born or not), it is 90.6% (compared with 98.2% overall). In Northern Ireland, this level of proficiency applies to 82.0% of the Muslim population. In Scotland, 79.1% of the Muslim population can speak, read and write English (the Scotland Census has a differently phrased question).

6. A greater proportion of the Muslim population in England and Wales is in 'Very good or good health' compared with the overall population: 85.4% compared with 82.0%. Similarly, a lower proportion have disabilities in which day-to-day activities are limited a lot: 5.6% compared with 7.5%. The pattern changes in the Muslim population aged 65 years and over: 37.2% are in 'Very good or good health' compared with 57.7% overall in the same age band; 27.4% have disabilities in which day-to-day activities are limited a lot compared with 17.3% overall in the same age band.

7. In the UK Muslim population aged 16 years and over, 32.6% attained a graduate-level educational qualification compared with 33.6% overall. In the 16 to 24 year age band, 21% of the Muslim population attained this level, compared with 19.4% overall. **In England and Wales, 50.1% of the full time Muslim student population is female.**

8. The proportion of the Muslim population in England & Wales (aged 16 years and over) that are economically active (as employees) has increased from 29.4% in 2001 to 35.4% in 2021. In the overall population, this has decreased from 52.3% to 46.0% in this period. In Scotland (in its 2022 Census), 34.9% of the Muslim population was in this economic activity category compared with 47.6% overall. In Northern Ireland, the equivalent figures are 31.5% and 45.3% respectively.

9. The proportion of the Muslim population in England & Wales (aged 16 years and over) in the 'Large employer & higher managerial and administrative occupations' has remained level at 1.7% between 2001 and 2021 (overall it has dropped from 4.2% to 4.1%); **the proportion of Muslims in the 'Higher professional occupations' category has increased from 4.9% to 6.5% in this period,** compared with 6.1% to 9.0% overall.

In Scotland (in its 2022 Census), 8.6% of the Muslim population was in the 'Higher professional occupations' category, compared with 9.0% overall. In Northern Ireland, the equivalent figures are 10.7% and 7.5% respectively.

10. The proportion of the Muslim households in England and Wales residing in social rented housing is 27.2%, compared with 17.1% overall. 22.7% of Muslims in social rented housing face overcrowding because there is 1 bedroom less than their needs; this is compared with 8.0% overall; 7.1% of Muslim households have 2 bedrooms less than their needs, compared with 1.4% overall.

11. The Government's deprivation indices indicate that while 20% of England's overall population resides in the 46 most deprived local authority districts, this applies to 40% of the Muslim population.

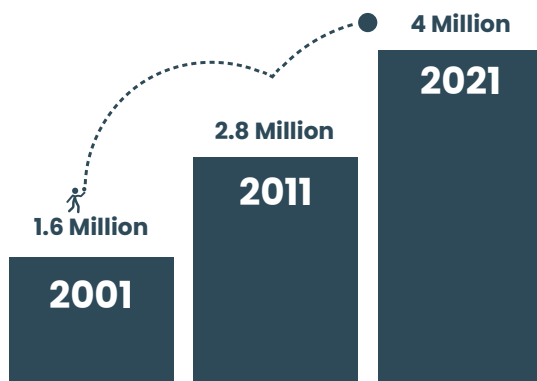
12. UK's 4 million Muslim population is predominantly urban rather than rural based: in England – London, 1.3 million; in Wales, Cardiff, 34,000; in Scotland, Glasgow, 49,000; in Northern Ireland, Belfast, ~ 5,500.

13. Muslims in the UK are a kaleidoscope of communities, with an internal diversity that is a microcosm of British society as a whole. The main ethnic categories are: 65.8%, Asian; 10.7%, Black; 7.4%, Arab; 5.9%, White.

14. In the United Kingdom, 17% of the population is non-White (11.3 million). 1 in 3 of the Ethnic Minority is Muslim. There is a common cause combatting all types of racism, including Islamophobia.

15. It is estimated that in 2029, there are likely to be 49 parliamentary constituencies where the Muslim voting population aged 16 or over will exceed the incumbent Member of Parliament's 2024 margin of victory by 10,000 or more.

MUSLIMS IN THE UK



6%
OF OVERALL
POPULATION




67m
total UK
population


2.2%
Scotland



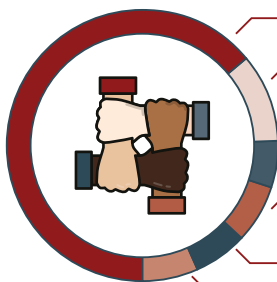

6.7%
England




2.2%
Wales




0.6%
Northern
Ireland



Asian/Asian British (2,630,257)

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British (429,142)

White (234,008)

Arab (296,632)

Any Other Ethnic Group (261,628)

Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group (147,205)

Ethnically diverse

Approx
1,791,000
Muslims Residing in
Married Households
with Dependent
Children

(45% of Muslims compared to 24% overall)



Housing



27% Occupy Social Housing
(Compared to 17% of overall population)

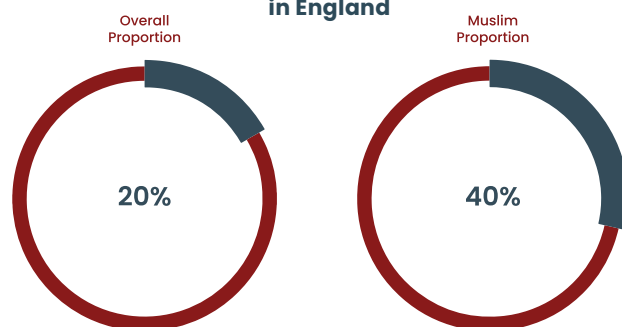


28% Privately Rent
(Compared to 20% of overall population)



46% Own Their Property
(Compared to 63% of overall population)

Distribution of Population in Most Deprived LADs in England





94%

of British Born Muslims in England & Wales Indicate UK National Identity



99%

of British Born Muslims in England & Wales have English as their main language or spoken well or very well

Education

Approx
449,200

Muslims in full-time education



50%

of Muslims full-time students are female



33%

of Muslims have degree and above qualifications

(Age 16 and above)

Health



85.4%

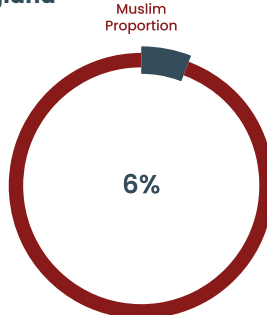
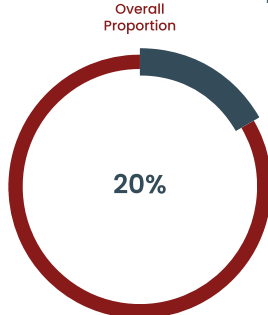
of Muslims in UK express good health (compared to 81.7% overall)



29.9%

of Muslim women aged 65+ years are in 'Bad' or 'Very Bad' health (compared to 13% overall)

Distribution of Population in Most Affluent LADs in England



Social Realities



18% of the Prison Population is Muslim*

(including those adopting faith in prison and both British & non-British nationals)
*Ministry of Justice Data



Over 379,500 Muslims residing in lone parent families with dependent children

(10% of Muslim population compared to 8% overall)



Over 180,000 one person households

(5% of Muslim population compared to 13% overall)

PART I – CENSUS OVERVIEW

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 What is the Census?
- 1.2 The Religion and Ethnicity Questions
- 1.3 Approach, Terminology and Structure

2. DATA SUMMARY & MAPS

- 2.1 Demographics
- 2.2 Focus on Youth
- 2.3 Engagement in Civic Life
- 2.4 Green Shoots of Social Mobility
- 2.5 Persisting Inequalities

1.1 WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The Census is a snapshot of the make-up of society taken every 10 years. It is an invaluable source of social statistics that is unique because it collects data on all households and occupants on Census Day. Responsibility for the Census in England and Wales, and Northern Ireland, rests with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, respectively, for whom Census Day was 21 March 2021. In Scotland, the National Records of Scotland conducted the Census on 22 March 2022. The Census questionnaire for England and Wales comprised 14 questions at the household level, and 50 questions at the individual level covering a range of socio-economic, health and educational topics.

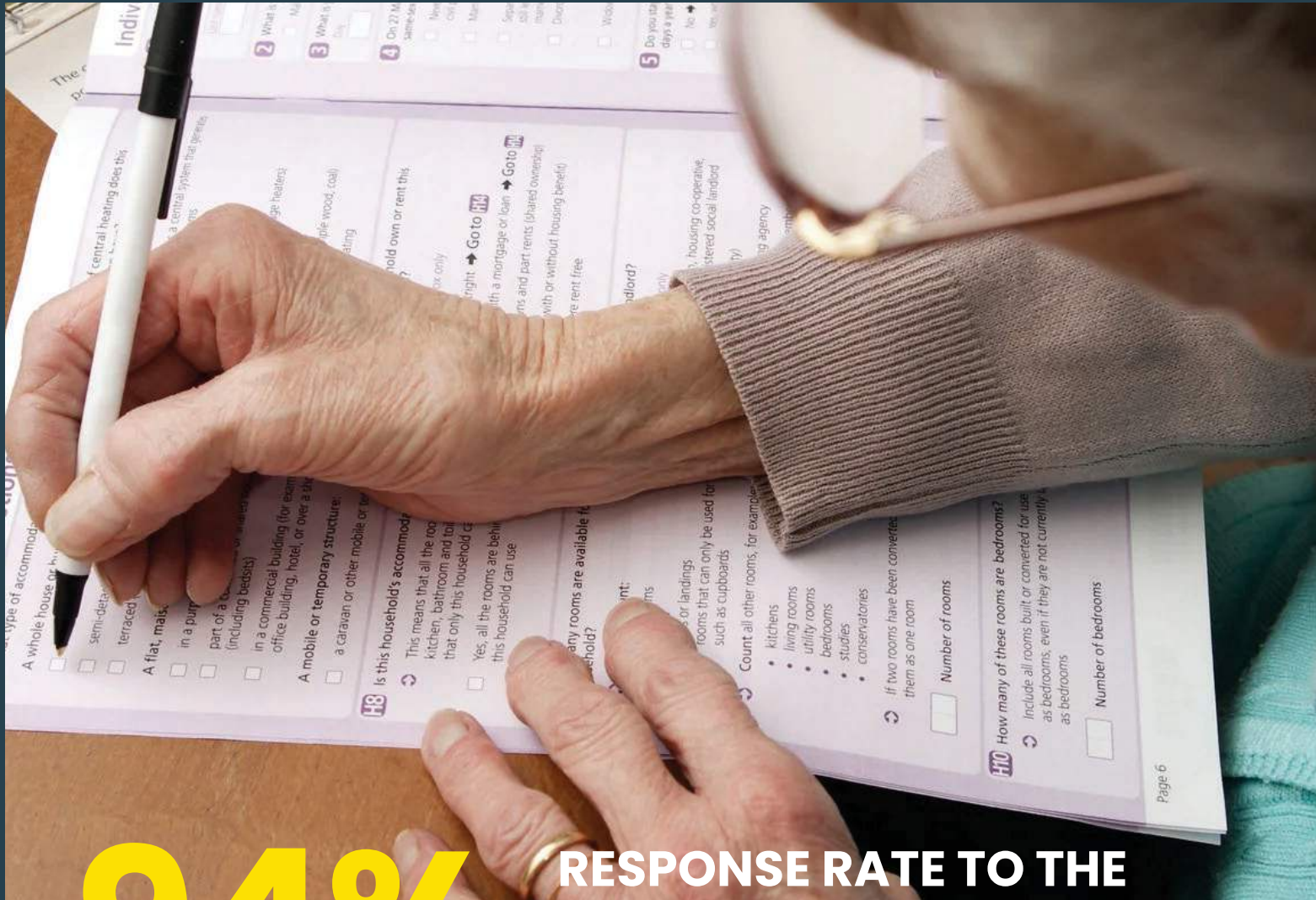
Like many other faith-based organisations, the MCB lacks the skills and resources to conduct a comparable national survey of Muslims in Britain. The Government's decision to conduct the 2031 Census along established lines is therefore very welcome, after some years of uncertainty on its future because of cost-saving reasons. The alternative of collating data from administrative sources, supplemented with a 4% annual rolling survey, would have significantly affected the reliability of data on Britain's religious minority and ethnic minority populations.

THE MCB'S ROLE IN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RELIGION QUESTION

The Census is a subject dear to the MCB, because its own history is intertwined with the simply phrased 'What is your religion' voluntary question in the England and Wales Census (or 'What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to' in Scotland, also voluntary). Although an ethnicity question has been included since 1991, and the Northern Ireland Census has long featured a question on religion, there had not been a religion question in the other nations of the UK for over a century.

The MCB took a leading role in the interfaith alliance and grassroots mobilisation in the late 1990s to secure its inclusion of a religion question in the 2001 Census of England and Wales, and Scotland. For the MCB, still newly formed at the time, it was a strategic issue, because for a younger generation comfortable with multiple identities, religion was preferred over ethnicity as a self-descriptor. Moreover, there was the 'business case' that a combination of ethnicity and religion data would lead to a more optimal allocation of public resources.

The campaign – which included lobbying Parliament for a legislative amendment to the Census Act – offered British Muslims their first comprehensive engagement with the variety of formal and informal networks,



94%

RESPONSE RATE TO THE VOLUNTARY RELIGION QUESTION

centres of power, institutions and processes that interact in the shaping of policy in a participative democracy.

The response rate of 94% to a voluntary question has indicated its public acceptability. The value of the data has been true to its promise, proving invaluable

in public policy planning and for providing Muslim civil society with self-awareness and self-understanding. It stands out as an example of an effective interfaith alliance for social action and highlights what can only be achieved through national-level faith community leadership.

1.2 THE RELIGION AND ETHNICITY QUESTIONS

For both religious affiliation and ethnicity, responses are provided via tick boxes, with provision for a write-in response.



S1.F1: Religion question – E&W

20 What is your religion?

➔ This question is voluntary

☐ No religion

☐ Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)

☐ Buddhist

☐ Hindu

☐ Jewish

☐ Muslim

☐ Sikh

☐ Any other religion, write in



S1.F3: Religion question – NI

13 What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?

☐ Roman Catholic ➔ **GO TO 15**

☐ Presbyterian Church in Ireland ➔ **GO TO 15**

☐ Church of Ireland ➔ **GO TO 15**

☐ Methodist Church in Ireland ➔ **GO TO 15**

☐ Other, write in ➔ **GO TO 15**

☐ None

14 What religion, religious denomination or body were you brought up in?

☐ Roman Catholic

☐ Presbyterian Church in Ireland

☐ Church of Ireland

☐ Methodist Church in Ireland

☐ Other, write in

☐ None



S1.F2: Religion question – S

21 What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?

◆ This question is **voluntary**

☐ None

☐ Church of Scotland

☐ Roman Catholic

☐ Other Christian, please write in below:

☐ Muslim, write in denomination or school below:

☐ Hindu

☐ Buddhist

☐ Sikh

☐ Jewish

☐ Pagan

☐ Another religion or body, please write in:



S1.F4: Ethnic group question – E&W

15 What is your ethnic group?

➔ Choose **one** section from A to E, then **tick one box** to best describe your ethnic group or background

A White

☐ English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British

☐ Irish

☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller

☐ Roma

☐ Any other White background, write in

B Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups

☐ White and Black Caribbean

☐ White and Black African

☐ White and Asian

☐ Any other Mixed or Multiple background, write in

C Asian or Asian British

☐ Indian

☐ Pakistani

☐ Bangladeshi

☐ Chinese

☐ Any other Asian background, write in

D Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

☐ Caribbean

☐ African background, write in below

☐ Any other Black, Black British or Caribbean background, write in

E Other ethnic group

☐ Arab

☐ Any other ethnic group, write in



S1.F6: Ethnic group question – NI

12 What is your ethnic group?

➡ Tick one box only.

☐ White

☐ Irish Traveller

☐ Indian

☐ Black African

☐ Mixed ethnic group, write in

☐ Chinese

☐ Roma

☐ Filipino

☐ Black Other

☐ Any other ethnic group, write in



S1.F5: Ethnic group question – S

23 What is your ethnic group?

◆ Choose ONE section from A to F, then tick ONE box which best describes your ethnic group or background

A White

☐ Scottish

☐ Other British

☐ Irish

☐ Polish

☐ Gypsy / Traveller

☐ Roma

☐ Showman / Showwoman

☐ Other white ethnic group, please write in:

B Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

☐ Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in:

C Asian, Scottish Asian or British Asian

☐ Pakistani, Scottish Pakistani or British Pakistani

☐ Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian

☐ Bangladeshi, Scottish Bangladeshi or British Bangladeshi

☐ Chinese, Scottish Chinese or British Chinese

☐ Other, please write in:

D African, Scottish African or British African

☐ Please write in (for example, NIGERIAN, SOMALI):

E Caribbean or Black

☐ Please write in (for example, SCOTTISH CARIBBEAN, BLACK SCOTTISH):

F Other ethnic group

☐ Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab

☐ Other, please write in (for example, SIKH, JEWISH):

1.3 APPROACH, TERMINOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

This report follows the template adopted in MCB's analysis of the 2011 Census, *British Muslims in Numbers* (2015). It is a systematic presentation of the data under separate themes, though some Census variables cannot be easily compartmentalised. For example, Census data relating to age-sex demographics is also referred to in the section considering youth and child poverty. The Census output is a rich cake that can be sliced in many ways: in this report, it is from the perspective of a community advocacy and representation body. It includes sections headed 'Observations' that draw attention to key implications of the findings. Quotations and references from academic and think tank reports are distinct from the text by being placed in text boxes.

The Census religion question in England and Wales has eight categories, including 'No Religion'. In its use of the term 'Minority Faiths', the report refers to the non-Christian faith population: Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and 'Other Religion'. Data relating to 'No Religion' is not included as a 'Minority Faith'. The term Ethnic Minority applies to the non-White population, as defined in the Census ethnic categories. 'Other ethnic group' excludes White, Mixed, Asian, and Black ethnic groups.

The terms 'Faith' and 'Religion' have been used interchangeably. In the gender

descriptions, both 'Male' and 'Female', and 'Men' and 'Women' have been used.

In consolidating data to the United Kingdom level, it has been necessary to make some assumptions where there are inconsistencies in data recording and output between the three Census offices. Thus, while the Scotland Census was conducted in 2022, no adjustment has been made to reflect what the data would have been in 2021, when the Census was carried out in the remaining nations. Scotland's 2022 data has been aggregated with 2021 data of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There is a further minor anomaly in ethnicity classifications. In the England & Wales 2021 Census, 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' and 'Roma' are subclassifications of 'White' ethnicity, while in Northern Ireland, this is not the case for 'Irish Traveller' and Roma'. This report adopts the England & Wales classification.

Where the Census outputs are provided for by ethnicity and not religion, data relating to the Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Arab ethnic categories can serve as an approximation for the Muslim population.

For comparison purposes, wherever Muslim data is presented, there is accompanying information on 'All Religions', i.e., the

combined total including Muslims and 'Religion not stated'. In interfaith comparisons, all eight religion categories are included.

The report provides data at various levels of geography: the United Kingdom; the four nations; the ten regions, and, on a selective basis, parliamentary constituencies, cities, lower tier local authority districts/Scottish councils and wards.

A 'flag icon' appears by each table to ease in Country/nation identification, i.e.

- >  **UNITED KINGDOM**
- >  **ENGLAND**
- >  **WALES**
- >  **SCOTLAND**
- >  **NORTHERN IRELAND**

In addition to Census data, this report draws on three other sources: the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for England; the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for prison statistics for England and Wales, including ethnicity and religion breakdowns; Electoral Commission and House of Commons website for the 2024 Westminster parliamentary elections data.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The preceding sections have explained what the decennial Census is about, MCB's historic involvement since 2001 and the format of the religion and ethnicity questions in the 2021 Census.

The section that follows is a data summary at a lower level of detail than the Executive Summary, providing an 'at a glance' view of Census findings on 5 topics: Demographics, Focus on Youth, Engagement in Civil Life, Green Shoots of Social Mobility and Persisting Inequalities. In each case, there are the key statistics and some 'take away' observations.

Part II of the report is the Census data in detail, organised under the same topic headings but with data tables, figures and graphs. Additionally, there are citations to related academic research and community projects. In this detailed presentation, there are comparisons with other faiths' data, and where appropriate, Muslim population characteristics are examined with reference to gender, age band and geographical area.

Part III highlights 4 social realities that warrant the attention of Muslim civil society, in the short and medium term: single parent households, loneliness,

elderly populations estimates, and prison population. There is also a brief reflection on the diversity in our faith and belief landscape. The section ends with suggestions for further research and consideration by the Census officers.

Due to the report's length and for ease of handling, it is published in two volumes. The appendix in Volume Two presents Muslim population characteristics for nine Census variables for England and Wales at the region level, and for each region, the local authority district with the largest Muslim population. This provides the facts to support local activists in representation and advocacy at public policy forums.

NOTATION

Bar chart figures – numerical values are percentages.

Figures and Tables

E&W – England and Wales

E – England

W – Wales

S – Scotland

NI – Northern Ireland

ABBREVIATIONS

BME – Black and Minority Ethnic, i.e. excluding the England & Wales's ethnic Census category 'White'. 'BAME' is considered a synonym.

HRP – Household Representative Person.

IMD – Index of Multiple Deprivation.

LAD – Lower Tier Local Authority District in England and Wales, including metropolitan districts.

2. DATA SUMMARY

The aim of this statistics summary is to provide an ‘at a glance’ view of the demographic, education, health and socio-economic characteristics of the Muslim population, together with significant observations. Subsequent sections provide the supporting data tables, figures, maps and 20-year trends.

2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION PROFILE

United Kingdom is diverse and cosmopolitan, home to people of many faiths and ethnicities. While 46.5% of the population has a Christian affiliation, its adherents are of all ethnicities. Muslims are the largest minority faith with a population of 3,998,875, forming 6% of the nation’s population.

The Muslim population has increased by 1.2 million between 2011 and 2021. This accounts for 32% of the overall growth of the UK population in these 10 years. Factors for the increase of the Muslim population between 2011 and 2021 include the greater proportion of women of childbearing age, immigration to join family members already in the UK, labour movement within the EU prior to January 2021, work permit based settlement from outside Europe and arrival of persons displaced by conflict and climate change.

AGE PROFILE

Muslims are a youthful population in an ageing society: 31.1% of the Muslim population was 15 years or younger in 2021, compared with 18.4% of the overall population; 14.8% in the 16 to 24 age band, compared with 10.6% overall (so 45.9% under the age of 25, compared with 29% overall); 4.8% was aged 65 years or more, compared with 18.6% overall. This ‘demographic dividend’ is a strategic asset to the nation, meeting gaps in the labour market, contributing financially to the state welfare system, injecting a creative and entrepreneurial spirit. In the decades to come, the large cohort of Muslim





4,000,000

**4 MILLION MUSLIMS IN BRITAIN
(6% OF THE UK)**

population in the 25-49 and 50-64 age bands in 2021/2022 will gradually move to the higher age bands, indicating an ageing population to come.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Muslims in the United Kingdom are a kaleidoscope of communities – a microcosm of British society as a whole, with representation in all Census ethnic groups, the largest being Asian (2,630,256; 65.8%) and Black (429,142; 10.7%). 5.9% of the Muslim population is of White ethnicity (234,016). There are even small numbers of Gypsy (or Irish Traveller) and Roma Muslims.

A greater proportion of Muslims are of mixed ethnicity compared with other faiths.

The total non-white population of the United Kingdom in 2021/2022 was 11,347,711. The Muslim non-white population stood at 3,764,856. So with 1 in 3 being Black & Minority Ethnic (BME), Muslims are essential partners in anti-racism advocacy, just as there is common cause combatting Islamophobia.

In the period 2001-2021 for England and Wales, the ethnic diversity is increasing as the proportion of Asian ethnicity Muslims continues to fall (from 73.7% to 65.9%) while

the proportion in the Black ethnic group is rising (from 6.9% to 10.8%). The ethnic diversity of the Muslim population needs to be reflected within the decision-making forums of Muslim institutions, such as mosque management committees.

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

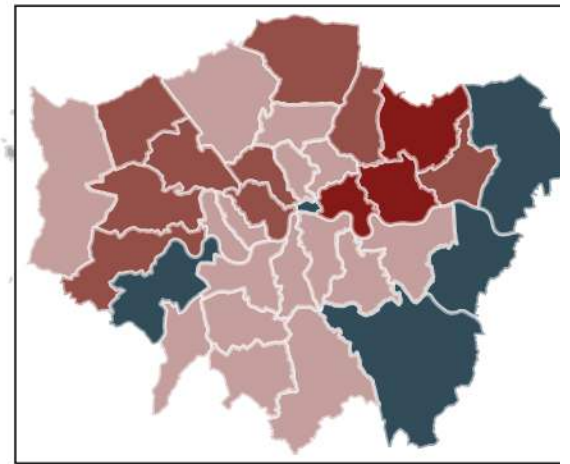
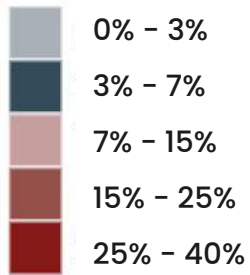
For the first time since the introduction of the religion question in the Census, the majority of Muslims are UK Born – 51%. In some local authority districts with a high Muslim population of South Asian ethnicity, the British-born proportion is higher: Bradford, 65%; Birmingham, 57%; Slough, 52%. Of the population not British-born, the greater proportion are from Pakistan and Bangladesh, and the region designated in the Census as 'Other Europe'.

GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

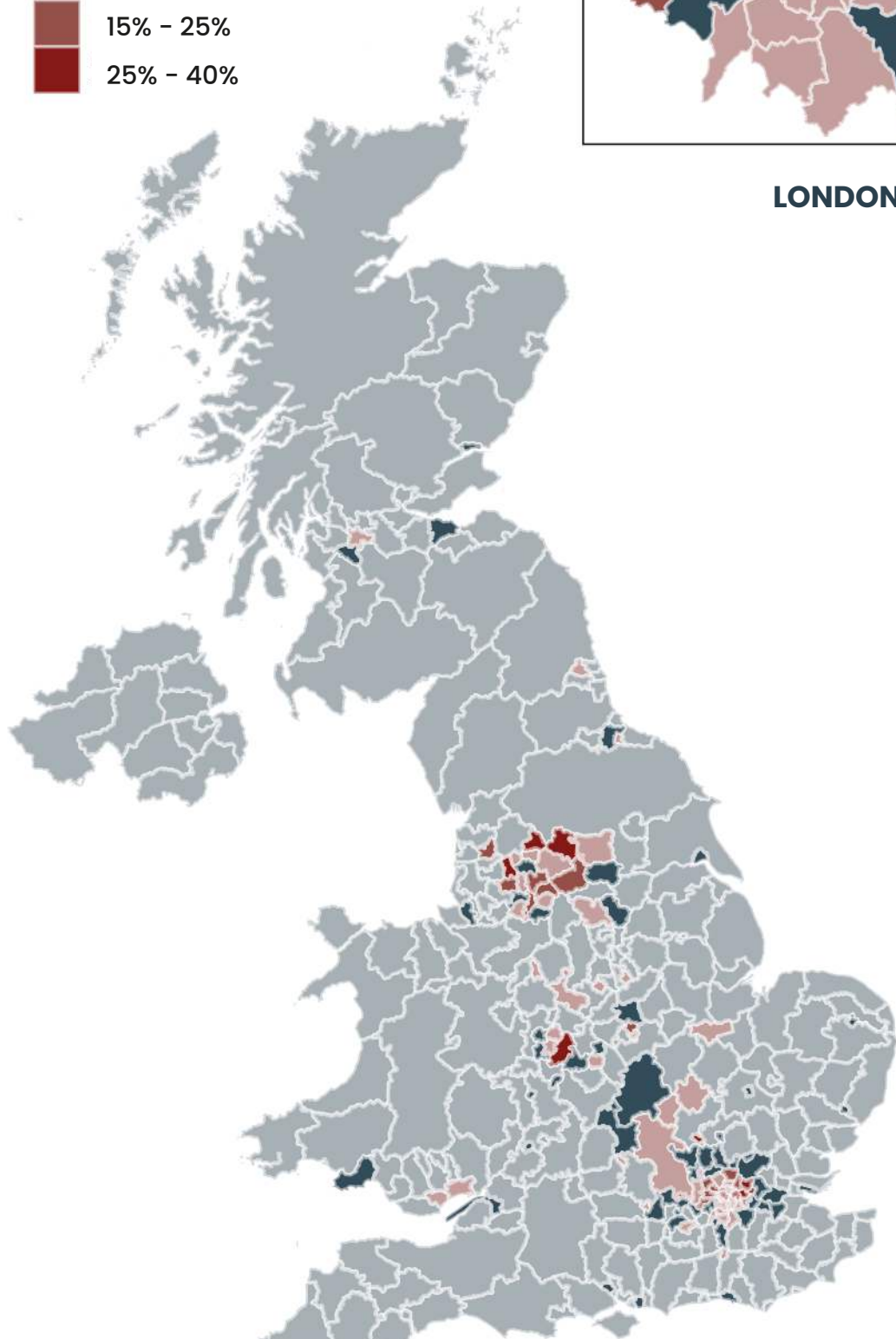
The Muslim population is mainly urban based, with concentration in inner city areas for historical reasons that include location of legacy industries, low-cost housing and community support networks.

The Muslim population of London is 1,318,754 (15% of the total population). A third of all Muslims in the UK live in London. The three London boroughs with the highest Muslim populations are all in the East End:

MUSLIM POPULATION 2021



LONDON



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Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2024
Analysis © Muslim Council of Britain 2024

1 IN 3

**OF THE UK'S
ETHNIC MINORITY
POPULATION IS
MUSLIM**

Tower Hamlets, 123,912 (39.9% of the total population); Newham, 122,146 (34.8% of the total population) and Redbridge, 97,068 (31.3% of the overall population).

The three towns and cities (excluding London) with the highest Muslim population are Birmingham, 341,811 (29.9% of the total population); Bradford, 166,846 (30.5% of the total population) and Manchester, 122,962 (22.3% of the total population).

In Wales, the total Muslim population is 66,947, mainly residing in the port towns: 33,650 in Cardiff (9.3% of the overall population); Newport, 11,280 (7.1% of the overall population); Swansea, 7,694 (3.2% of the overall population).

In Scotland, the total Muslim population is 119,872, mainly in Glasgow, 48,766 (7.9% of the overall population) and Edinburgh, 18,034 (3.5% of the overall population).

In Northern Ireland, the total Muslim population is 10,870, with 5,487 residing in Belfast (1.6% of the overall population).

GEOGRAPHICAL DISPERSAL

The evidence is of geographical dispersal out of pockets of high Muslim population density. An index that measures geographical spread indicates that between 2001 and 2021, the Muslim population had become less

geographically concentrated, compared with Sikh and Jewish populations, at the lower tier local authority district level. The stereotyping of Muslims as self-segregating communities needs to be challenged.

2.2 FOCUS ON YOUTH

While Muslims form 6.0% of the overall population of the United Kingdom, 10.0% of all school-age children (5 to 15 year age band) are Muslim. Comparable figures are 6.7% and 11.2% for England, 2.2% and 3.7% for Wales, 2.2% and 4.0% for Scotland and 0.6% and 0.9% for Northern Ireland.

In the MCB's estimation by 2031, without taking account of immigration and mortality, there will be approximately 552,000 Muslim teenagers – largely those in 2021 (Scotland 2022) in the age band 3 to 9 year age band (Scotland 4 to 10). Muslim civil society needs to respond to demands for youth services (e.g. counselling and mentoring, recreational facilities) through collaborations, co-productions and other avenues. Similarly, youth clubs reluctant to seek lottery funds for the upgrade of facilities require expert advice and support.

The percentage of Muslim children of school age is high in some inner-city wards: of Birmingham's 69 wards, in 21 of these 50% of children (3–15 years) are Muslim.

94%

**BRITISH-BORN MUSLIMS
IN ENGLAND & WALES
IDENTIFY AS BRITISH.**



2.3 ENGAGEMENT IN CIVIC LIFE

NATIONAL IDENTITY & COUNTRY OF BIRTH

UK Born Muslims in England and Wales have a strong sense of British identity (94%). Among non-UK Born Muslims, for 55% their only national identity is a UK one, which is a higher proportion than in all other faiths. There is a generational shift taking place from the first-generation immigrants to second, third (and further) generations that are UK Born and bred. The response for the UK Born population to the National Identity question is midway between those of other faiths.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

For 99% of UK Born Muslims in England and Wales, English is their main language or

spoken well or very well. In England and Wales, 1.5% of the Muslim population cannot speak English. The lack of English Language proficiency is mainly in the Muslim female population aged 65 years and over.

The lower English language proficiency in the older Muslim female population calls for targeted interventions, particularly to ensure access to public services, now increasingly on digital platforms.

In addition to English Language proficiency, in Scotland, there are 9,000 Muslims who also speak, read and write Scots, while in Wales, there are 2,800 Muslims with similar abilities in Welsh.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

In England and Wales there are about 25 million households of whom 14% are of the type 'Married or civil partnership couple with dependent children'. Within Muslim households, 35.7% are of this type, which is more than any other faith.

The data also indicates that the proportion of Muslim households in the 'Lone Parent with dependent children' category (10.3%) is higher than the overall (6.9%). In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the single parent is predominantly female.

Muslims have significantly lower rates of cohabiting family households. In 2021, 1.2% of Muslim households were of this type with no children, compared with 6.3% in the overall population; 2.5% were with dependent children, compared with 4.5% overall.

Marriage remains the foundation of family life and is a basis for social stability and civic participation. The traditional family structure of married (or civil registration) couples with children is the norm for Muslims in Britain.

VOTING

The 2021 Census preceded the 2024 General Election, but from the demographic data, 32 parliamentary constituencies can be identified that have a significant (20% or more) Muslim population aged 18 years or above (in July 2024).

It is estimated that in 2029 there are likely to be 49 constituencies where the Muslim voting population aged 16 and over will exceed the 2024 margin of victory by 10,000 or more.

If the voting age is reduced from 18 to 16 years, it is estimated that the increase in the potential electorate will be 1.6 million in England, Wales and Scotland.

The resulting increase in number of Muslim first-time voters is estimated to be 162,000.

In the July 2024 General Election the Muslim Council of Britain was at the forefront of a campaign for voter registration and increased voter awareness of the policy pledges sought from prospective parliamentary candidates.

British Muslims are a 'community of communities', of diverse social, cultural and language backgrounds. Likewise in their political choices at UK general elections, care must be taken not to assume a population as one homogenous block. It will always be legitimate for people to organise on issues they care about.



49

**PARLIAMENTARY
CONSTITUENCIES WHERE
MUSLIM VOTING POTENTIAL IS
10K MORE THAN THE MAJORITY**

2.4 GREEN SHOOTS OF SOCIAL MOBILITY

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

There is an upward trend in the proportion of economically active Muslims, from 48.3% in 2001 to 54.8% in 2021. The proportion of Muslim men who are self-employed (with employees) is 3.9%, which is more than for the population as a whole (2.3%). Similarly, the proportion of Muslim men who are sole traders (self-employed without employees) is 13.0%, while for the rest of the population it is 10.9%. **This entrepreneurial spirit contributes to the nation's economic growth.**

Between 2011 and 2021 there has also been a rise in the proportion of Muslim women entering the labour market, from 30.9% to 42.3% in England and Wales. However, the national proportion is 56.2% in 2021.

In the Muslim male population in the 25–49 year age band, 81.9% are economically active, comparable to 88.7% in the overall population.

27% of Muslim women in the UK aged 16 years and over are categorised as 'economically inactive' in Census statistics, because they are "looking after home and family". **It is simplistic of official statistics to discount the economic contribution of women caring for young families or elderly relatives.**

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

There is an upward trend in the proportion of Muslims attaining a degree-level qualification.

In the 16–24 year age band those attaining Level 4/degree level increased from 11.3% in 2001 to 20.8% in 2021, accompanied with a reduction in Muslims with 'No Qualifications' from 21.8% to 11.7%.

In the 25–49 year age band, those attaining level 4/degree level increased from 25.6% in 2001 to 40.4% in 2021; in the overall population the increase was from 25.5% to 45.6%.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASSIFICATION

The trends in England and Wales indicate a modest increase in the proportion in the 'upper echelon' jobs, notably in the 'Higher professional occupation' category from 5.5% to 6.5% between 2011 and 2021. However, the statistic of 6.5% stands out compared with 17.8% and 16.7% for the Hindu and Jewish faith groups respectively.

This upward occupational mobility is welcome but the lower proportion in comparison to some other faith groups points to the potential of a glass ceiling.

21%

**OF 16–24 YEAR OLDS
NOW ACHIEVE DEGREE
LEVEL EDUCATION**



2.5 PERSISTING INEQUALITIES

DEPRIVATION & POVERTY

40% of the Muslim population in England lived in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country in 2001, 2011 & 2021 — no change over time in relative terms. It is a pattern that applies to the BME population particularly of Pakistani ethnicity.

In absolute numbers there are now approximately 1 million more Muslims living in the most deprived parts of the country than in 2001. This trend is even more dramatic if we look at most deprived and most affluent 10% of neighbourhoods.

The MCB has analysed the child population in local authorities that have a high Muslim population (20% or more) and are also among the most deprived to assess the **number of children (aged 15 years and under) raised in poor neighbourhoods.** There are about 400,000 in these 14 local authority districts.

Poor neighbourhoods include people of all faiths and ethnicities and recent academic studies show that even in a deprived ward, poor and well-off households are cheek-by-jowl. However, mapping work carried out by the MCB at sub-ward level indicates that the Muslim population is often concentrated in the poorest neighbourhoods. To be fair, 'levelling up' policies need to be targeted to address the needs of low-income families, irrespective of faith or ethnicity.

In 2021, 20% of the population in England resided in 83 of its most affluent local authority districts. For Muslims, it is 6% of the population.

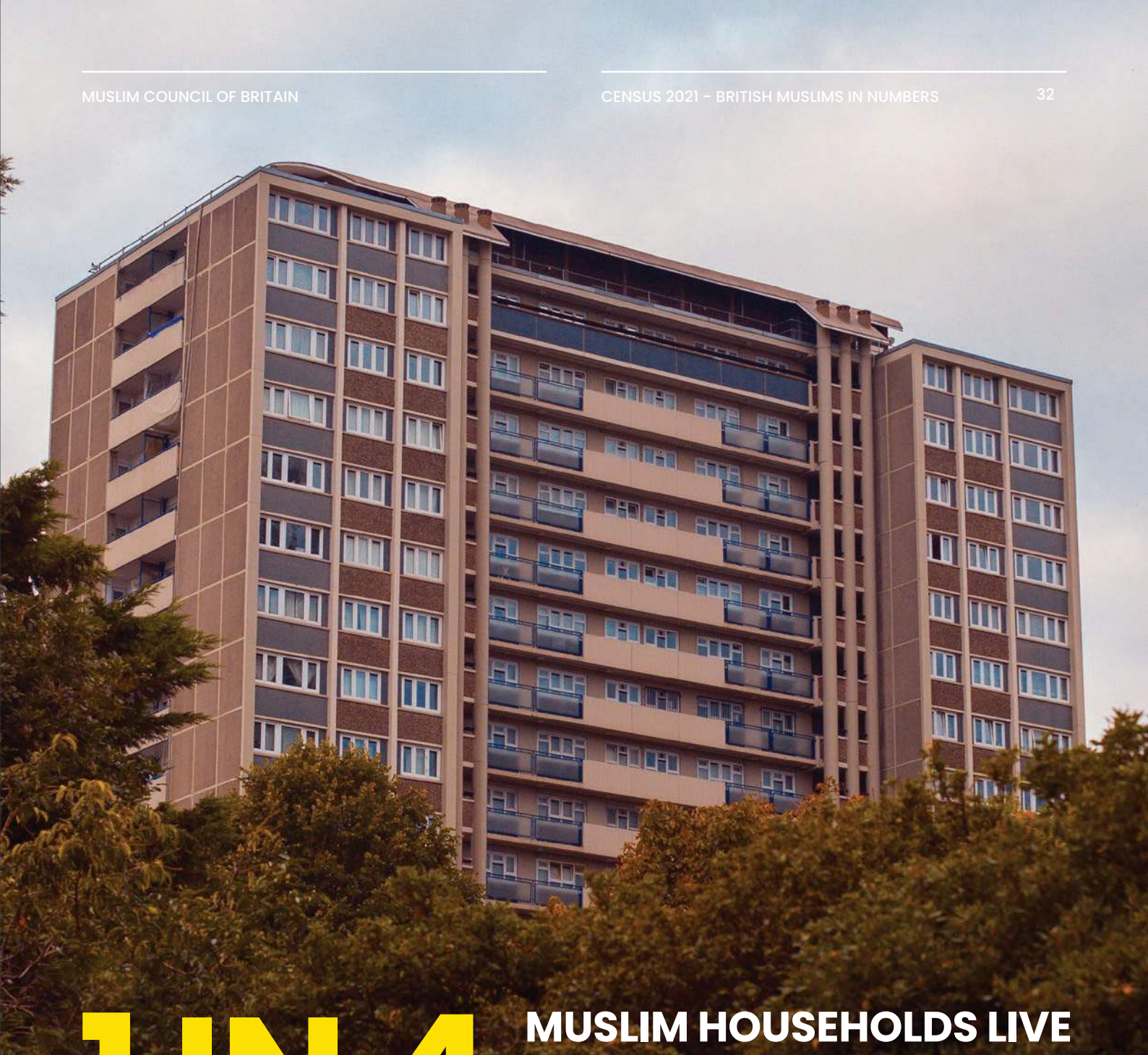
HOUSING

In England and Wales, of the various housing tenure types, in comparison to other Minority Faiths, there is a lower proportion of Muslim households residing in owned or shared ownership housing – 41.5% compared with 62.5% overall. The proportion of Muslim households in social housing and private rented accommodation is 27.2% and 31.3% respectively, compared with 17.1% and 20.4% overall.

Analysis of housing tenure by ethnicity indicated a greater proportion of the Black African and Bangladeshi households reside in social housing – 43.6% and 33.5% respectively, compared with 17.1% overall.

Muslims disproportionately face housing deprivation. 1 in 4 Muslims households in England and Wales live in overcrowded residences compared with 1 in 15 of the overall population.

Though there has been a reduction in overcrowded households over 20 years, it was still experienced by 32% of Bangladeshis and 25% of Africans (Census

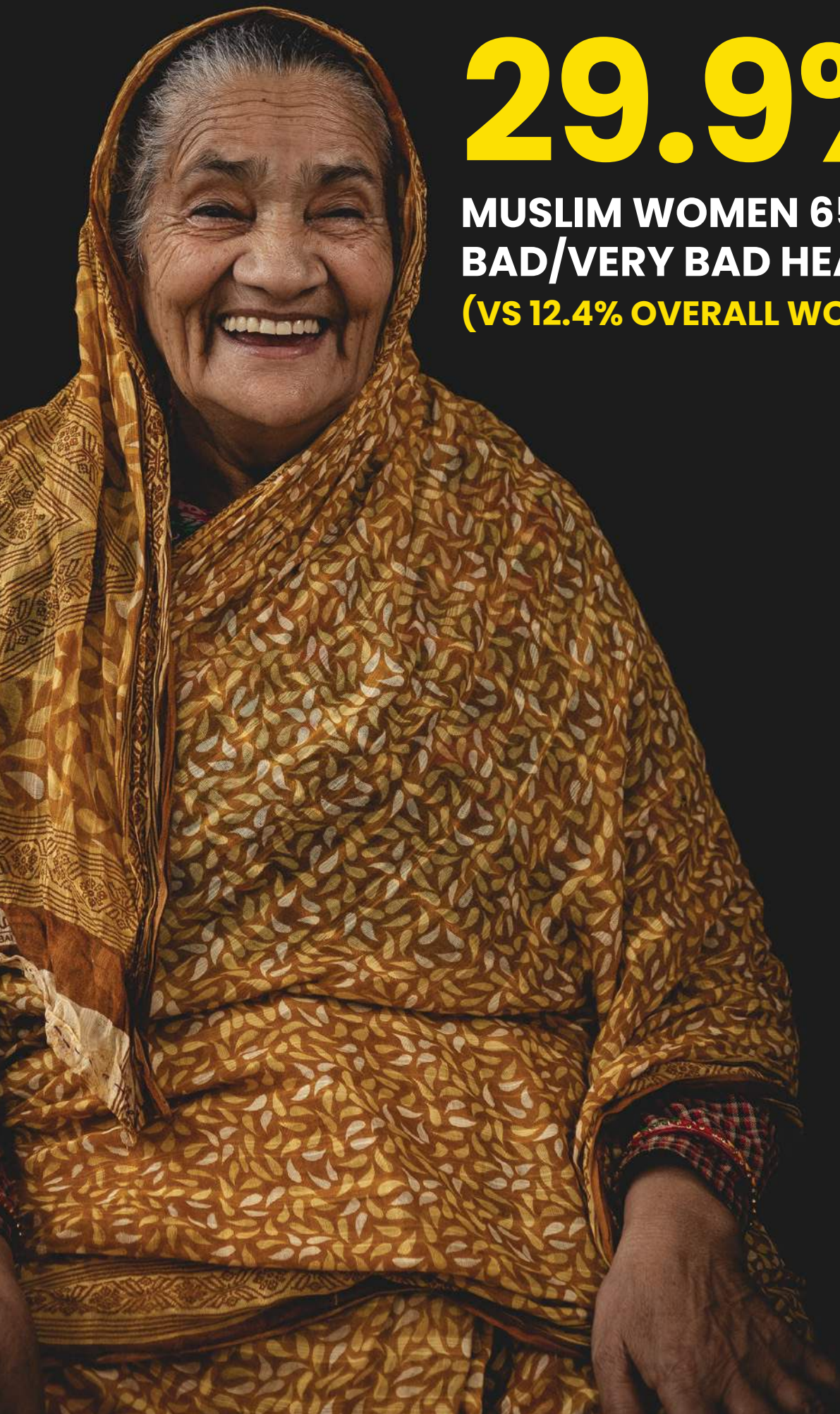


1 IN 4

MUSLIM HOUSEHOLDS LIVE IN OVERCROWDED HOMES (VS 1 IN 15 OF THE OVERALL POPULATION)

ethnic categories) in 2021. Similarly, across 20 years, the proportion of Muslims with home ownership remains lower than the overall population, while the take-up of privately rented remains almost double the rest. Where there is a high level of owned/shared ownership, there can still be overcrowding. This may be related to the type of housing stock available on the property market in cities like Birmingham.

The housing crisis with a shortage of affordable homes is well-acknowledged, but this disproportionately affects the Muslim population because of the reduction in council housing stock and new build schemes unsuitable for multi-generational or large households. This again calls for targeted interventions to ensure supply of new builds matches



29.9%

**MUSLIM WOMEN 65+ IN
BAD/VERY BAD HEALTH**

(VS 12.4% OVERALL WOMEN 65+)

demand.

HEALTH & DISABILITY

The percentage of Muslims in UK expressing good health is greater than the rest of the population – 85.4% compared with 82% because of the communities' younger age profile. However, the pattern changes for older Muslims around the age of 50. This trend also applies to Scotland and Northern Ireland. In England and Wales, approximately 1 in 8 women (12.4%) over 65 years of age indicated bad or very bad health, but in the Muslim population it is almost 1 in 3 (29.9%).

The statistics point out to ethnic differences: in women in the 65 year and over age band, **the highest proportion in bad or very bad health is in the Bangladeshi and Pakistani** ethnic categories (37% and 31.3%); it is lowest in the African ethnicity population (12.6%).

In the overall population, the proportion of women over 65 in 'bad or very bad health' has reduced from 24.8% to 13.1% (a 47% reduction) between 2001 and 2021, whilst for Muslims it has been less marked – from 42.8% to 29.9% (a 30% reduction).

The percentage within the Muslim population with a self-declared disability of the category 'Day-to-day activities limited a lot' is 5.6%, which is less than the overall population's percentage in this category of 7.5%. This again is likely due to the greater proportion of the younger age bands in the Muslim population compared with the overall population. **As in the case of self-declared health, the pattern changes when considering Muslims in the older age bands, particularly women over 65+.** In the overall population, 18.8% of women self-declare a disability leading to 'day-to-day activities limited a lot', compared with 32.9% of women in the Muslim population.

In the White British ethnic category in England and Wales, 8.5% indicate a disability 'limited a lot'. There is a lesser proportion for ethnic categories: Pakistani, 6.0%; Bangladeshi, 5.5%; Black African, 3.4%. In the 0-15 year age group, this disability category applies to 2.9% of the White British ethnicity population; for other ethnic categories: Pakistani, 2.3%; Bangladeshi, 2.3%; Black African 1.8%.

PART II – CENSUS TOPICS IN DETAIL

3. DEMOGRAPHICS

- 3.1 Population Profile
- 3.2 Age Profile
- 3.3 Ethnic Diversity
- 3.4 Country of Birth
- 3.5 Geographical Spread
- 3.6 Geographical Dispersal

3.1 POPULATION PROFILE

3.1.1 RESPONSES TO RELIGION AND ETHNICITY QUESTIONS (4 NATIONS AND UK LEVEL)

The responses to the religion and ethnicity questions enrich British social statistics with information on the diverse and plural makeup of contemporary Britain.

Across the United Kingdom, 46.5% of the population has a Christian affiliation. There is a minority faith presence in all the nations, though to a lesser extent in Northern Ireland.



S3.T1: Population by Religion – UK

Religion	England		Wales		Scotland*		Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	3,801,186	6.7	66,947	2.2	119,872	2.2	10,870	0.6	3,998,875	6.0
Christian	26,167,899	46.3	1,354,773	43.6	2,110,405	38.8	1,516,152	79.7	31,149,229	46.5
Buddhist	262,433	0.5	10,075	0.3	15,501	0.3	1,542	0.1	289,551	0.4
Hindu	1,020,533	1.8	12,242	0.4	29,929	0.6	4,190	0.2	1,066,894	1.6
Jewish	269,283	0.5	2,044	0.1	5,847	0.1	439	0.0	277,613	0.4
Sikh	520,092	0.9	4,048	0.1	10,988	0.2	389	0.0	535,517	0.8
Other religion	332,410	0.6	15,926	0.5	31,543	0.6	8,094	0.4	387,973	0.6
No religion	20,715,664	36.7	1,446,398	46.5	2,780,900	51.1	330,983	17.4	25,273,945	37.8
Not answered	3,400,548	6.0	195,041	6.3	334,862	6.2	30,529	1.6	3,960,980	5.9
All Religions	56,490,048	100.0	3,107,494	100.0	5,439,847	100.0	1,903,188	100.0	66,940,577	100.0

* Scotland Census 2022

After Christianity, the next highest proportion of the population is in the 'No religion' category. Muslims form the largest minority faith.

There is a Muslim population in all 4 nations similar to Hindus and Buddhists.

The United Kingdom's diversity in faith and belief is accompanied by ethnic diversity.



S3.T2: Population by Ethnic group – UK

Ethnic Group	England		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	45,783,401	81.0	2,915,848	93.8	5,051,873	92.9	1,837,575	96.6	55,588,697	83.0
Mixed	1,669,378	3.0	48,598	1.6	60,899	1.1	14,382	0.8	1,793,257	2.7
Asian	5,426,392	9.6	89,028	2.9	212,022	3.9	32,480	1.7	5,759,922	8.6
Black	2,381,724	4.2	27,554	0.9	65,414	1.2	11,030	0.6	2,485,722	3.7
Other	1,229,153	2.2	26,466	0.9	49,632	0.9	7,707	0.4	1,312,958	2.0
All Ethnic Groups	56,490,048	100.0	3,107,494	100.0	5,439,840	100.0	1,903,174	100.0	66,940,556	100.0

In England, Wales and Scotland, each ethnic category includes a population representing at least 4 of the 6 minority faiths. The Black ethnic population has the highest proportion of affiliation to the Christian faith, and the Asian ethnic population has the highest proportion of Muslim faith affiliation.



S3.T3: Ethnic group by Religion – E

Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Religion not stated
	Number	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	45,783,402	0.5	50.5	0.2	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	41.8	6.0
Mixed	1,669,379	8.3	36.6	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	1.0	43.5	8.5
Asian	5,426,392	46.4	10.2	2.8	17.6	0.0	7.8	1.0	8.9	5.3
Black	2,381,723	17.1	67.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	8.5	6.4
Other	1,229,153	42.2	22.5	1.1	3.8	2.4	7.1	2.4	12.1	6.5
All Ethnic groups	56,490,049	6.7	46.3	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.9	0.6	36.7	6.0



S3.T4: Ethnic group by Religion – W

Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Religion not stated
	Number	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	2,915,848	0.2	44.7	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5	48.1	6.0
Mixed	48,599	7.7	32.8	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.9	49.0	8.5
Asian	89,032	39.2	17.8	4.8	12.6	0.0	3.6	0.6	15.5	5.3
Black	27,555	29.1	55.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	8.9	6.4
Other	26,466	56.5	18.2	0.8	1.5	0.7	2.1	1.5	12.4	6.5
All Ethnic groups	3,107,500	2.2	43.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	46.5	6.0



S3.T5: Ethnic group by Religion – S

Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Religion not stated
	Number	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	5,051,874	0.1	40.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	53.0	6.1
Mixed	60,899	7.0	26.9	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.3	1.7	54.3	8.0
Asian	212,022	36.2	11.5	3.7	13.2	0.0	3.8	0.5	24.0	7.1
Black	65,414	16.5	62.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.0	12.2	7.4
Other	49,632	45.5	14.2	0.8	2.0	3.7	5.2	1.4	18.8	8.4
All Ethnic groups	5,439,841	2.2	38.8	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.6	51.1	6.2



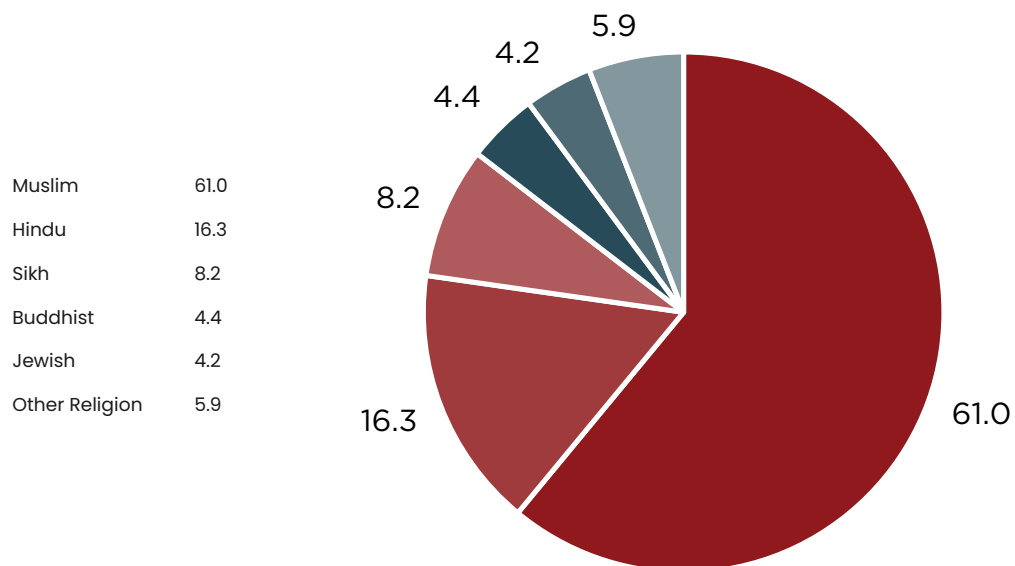
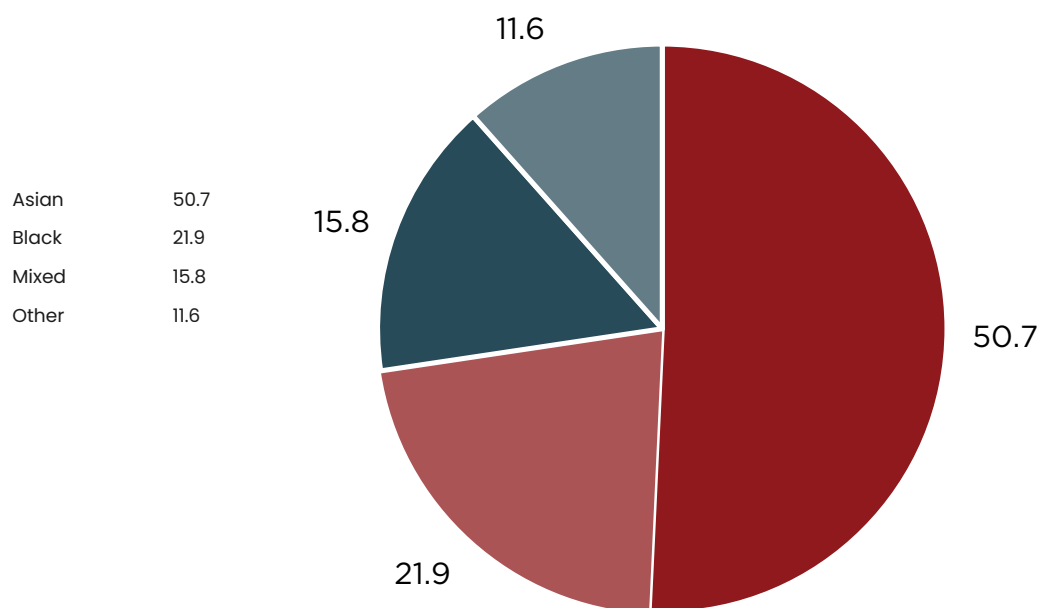
S3.T6: Ethnic group by Religion – NI

Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Religion not stated
	Number	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
White	1,837,574	0.1	80.9	0.0	0.0	-	-	0.4	17.0	1.5
Mixed	14,382	6.0	52.8	0.6	0.4	-	-	1.9	36.6	1.8
Asian	32,480	15.6	34.9	2.6	12.5	-	-	1.8	28.6	3.9
Black	11,035	18.4	56.6	0.0	0.0	-	-	1.2	20.4	3.4
Other	7,710	8.4	55.5	0.1	0.2	-	-	3.5	18.8	13.5
All Ethnic groups	1,903,181	0.6	79.7	0.1	0.2	-	-	0.5	17.4	1.6

The 'No religion' response is low in the Asian and Black ethnic categories in comparison with the White and Mixed ethnic categories in England, Wales and Scotland. However, for Northern Ireland, 'No religion' response is lowest in the White ethnic group.

The spirit of marrying multiculturalism to traditionalism was in display in the Coronation of King Charles, where he swore the traditional oath in relation to the Church of England but in advance he affirmed 'the duty to protect the diversity of our country, including by protecting the space for Faith itself and its practise through the religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs to which our hearts and minds direct us as individuals.

Tariq Modood. Religion in Britain Today and Tomorrow: Some Considerations for the Church of England on the Country it Serves. Towards the Conversion of the Church of England by the Rest of England, William Temple Books, 2025.

**S3.F1: Minority Faiths population % - UK****S3.F2: BME population % - UK**

The BME population composes 17% of the overall population. Asians are the largest group, followed by Black, Mixed and Other Ethnic categories.

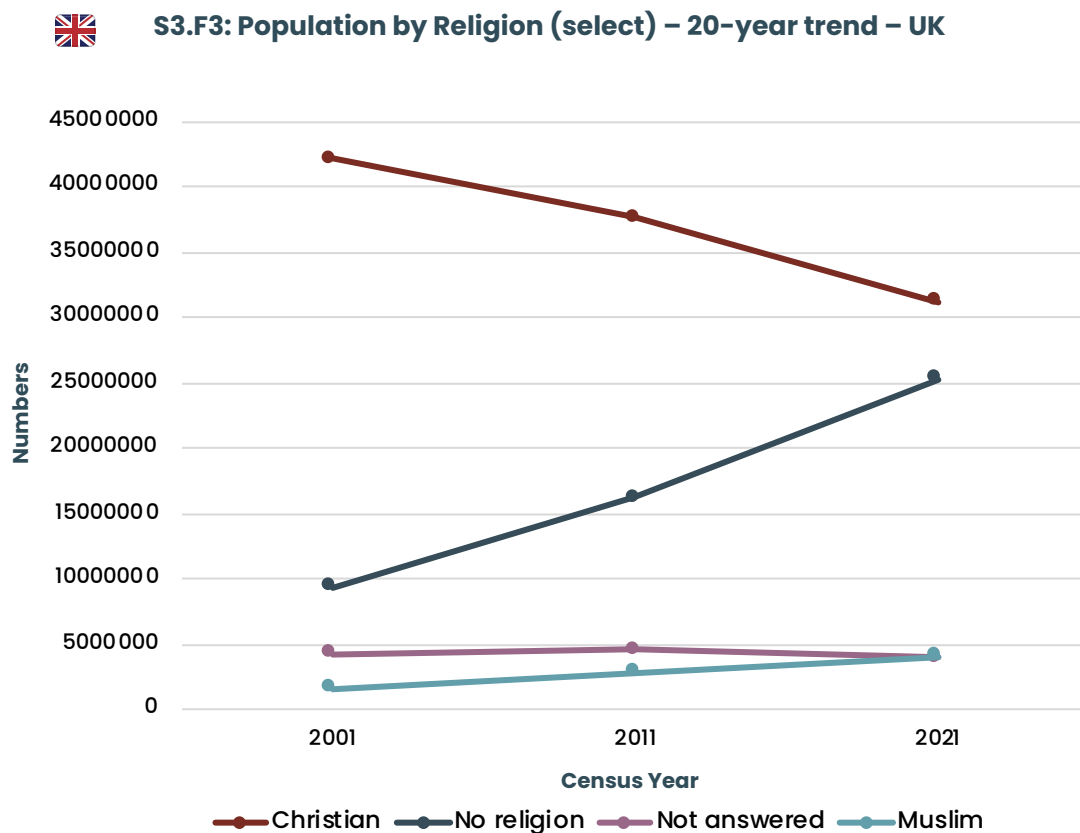
3.1.2 20-YEAR TRENDS IN RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Comparing the 4 nations in the United Kingdom, Christianity was the majority faith in England and Northern Ireland in 2021, but not in Wales or Scotland. In 2001, 15.9% of the population responded 'No religion', but this increased to 37.8% twenty years later.

The demographic trends point to a Muslim population increase over the 20-year period, accompanied with changes in its ethnic diversity, greater geographical spread and dispersal (in comparison with other Minority Faiths) and changes in the older age bands.

Between 2001 and 2011 the population of the UK increased by 4,392,964 (7.5%) and between 2011 and 2021 (2022 in Scotland) the population increased by 3,758,399 (5.9%). The Muslim population increased by 1,195,509 (75.1%) and 1,212,240 (43.5%) respectively. Other Minority Faiths have also increased in population, but not to the same extent.

The increase in Muslim population between 2011 and 2021 accounts for 32% of the overall growth of the UK population in these 10 years.





S3.T7: Population by Religion, 2021 – UK

Religion	England		Wales		Scotland*		Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	3,801,186	6.7	66,947	2.2	119,872	2.2	10,870	0.6	3,998,875	6.0
Christian	26,167,899	46.3	1,354,773	43.6	2,110,405	38.8	1,516,152	79.7	31,149,229	46.5
Buddhist	262,433	0.5	10,075	0.3	15,501	0.3	1,542	0.1	289,551	0.4
Hindu	1,020,533	1.8	12,242	0.4	29,929	0.6	4,190	0.2	1,066,894	1.6
Jewish	269,283	0.5	2,044	0.1	5,847	0.1	439	0.0	277,613	0.4
Sikh	520,092	0.9	4,048	0.1	10,988	0.2	389	0.0	535,517	0.8
Other religion	332,410	0.6	15,926	0.5	31,543	0.6	8,094	0.4	387,973	0.6
No religion	20,715,664	36.7	1,446,398	46.5	2,780,900	51.1	330,983	17.4	25,273,945	37.8
Not answered	3,400,548	6.0	195,041	6.3	334,862	6.2	30,529	1.6	3,960,980	5.9
All Religions	56,490,048	100.0	3,107,494	100.0	5,439,847	100.0	1,903,188	100.0	66,940,577	100.0



S3.T8: Population by Religion, 2011 – UK

Religion	England		Wales		Scotland*		Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	2,660,116	5.0	45,950	1.5	76,737	1.4	3,832	0.2	2,786,635	4.4
Christian	31,479,876	59.4	1,763,299	57.6	2,850,199	53.8	1,490,588	82.3	37,583,962	59.5
Buddhist	238,626	0.5	9,117	0.3	12,795	0.2	1,046	0.1	261,584	0.4
Hindu	806,199	1.5	10,434	0.3	16,379	0.3	2,382	0.1	835,394	1.3
Jewish	261,282	0.5	2,064	0.1	5,887	0.1	335	0.0	269,568	0.4
Sikh	420,196	0.8	2,962	0.1	9,055	0.2	216	0.0	432,429	0.7
Other religion	227,825	0.4	12,705	0.4	15,196	0.3	7,048	0.4	262,774	0.4
No religion	13,114,232	24.7	982,997	32.1	1,941,116	36.7	183,164	10.1	16,221,509	25.7
Not answered	3,804,104	7.2	233,928	7.6	368,039	7.0	122,252	6.8	4,528,323	7.2
All Religions	53,012,456	100.0	3,063,456	100.0	5,295,403	100.0	1,810,863	100.0	63,182,178	100.0

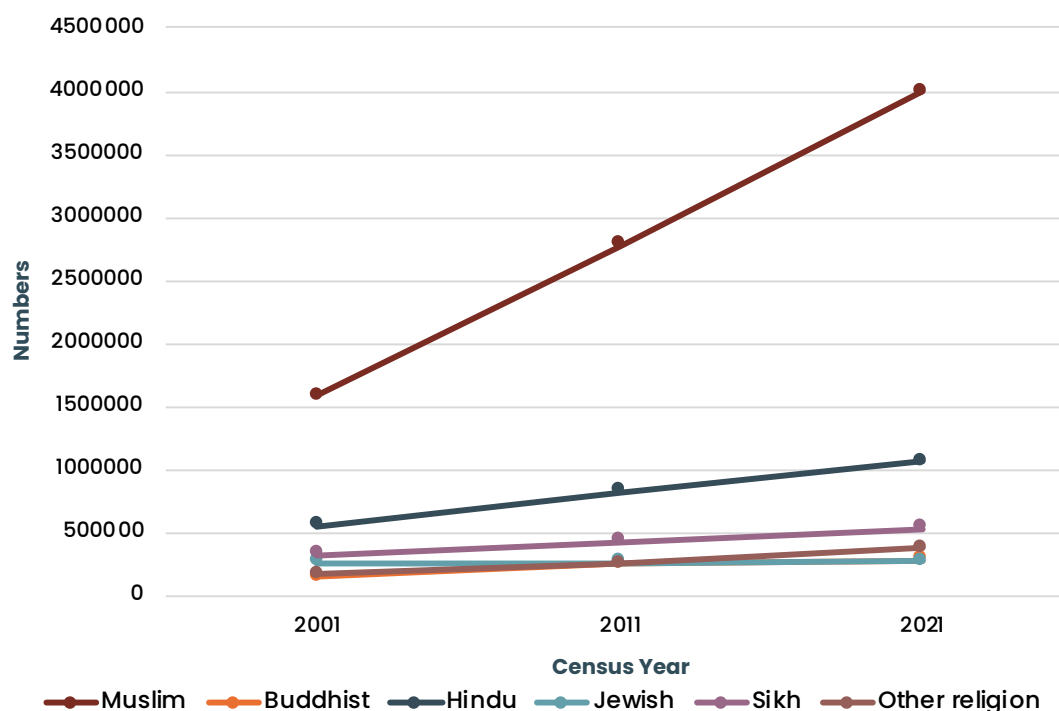


S3.T9: Population by Religion, 2001 – UK

Religion	England		Wales		Scotland*		Northern Ireland		United Kingdom	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	1,524,887	3.1	21,739	0.7	42,557	0.8	1,943	0.1	1,591,126	2.7
Christian	35,251,244	71.7	2,087,242	71.9	3,294,545	65.1	1,446,386	85.8	42,079,417	71.6
Buddhist	139,046	0.3	5,407	0.2	6,830	0.1	533	0.0	151,816	0.3
Hindu	546,982	1.1	5,439	0.2	5,564	0.1	825	0.0	558,810	1.0
Jewish	257,671	0.5	2,256	0.1	6,448	0.1	365	0.0	266,740	0.5
Sikh	327,343	0.7	2,015	0.1	6,572	0.1	219	0.0	336,149	0.6
Other religion	143,811	0.3	6,909	0.2	26,974	0.5	1,143	0.1	178,837	0.3
No religion	7,171,332	14.6	537,935	18.5	1,394,480	27.5	233,853	13.9	9,337,600	15.9
Not answered	3,776,515	7.7	234,143	8.1	278,061	5.5	0	0.0	4,288,719	7.3
All Religions	49,138,831	100.0	2,903,085	100.0	5,062,031	100.0	1,685,267	100.0	58,789,214	100.0



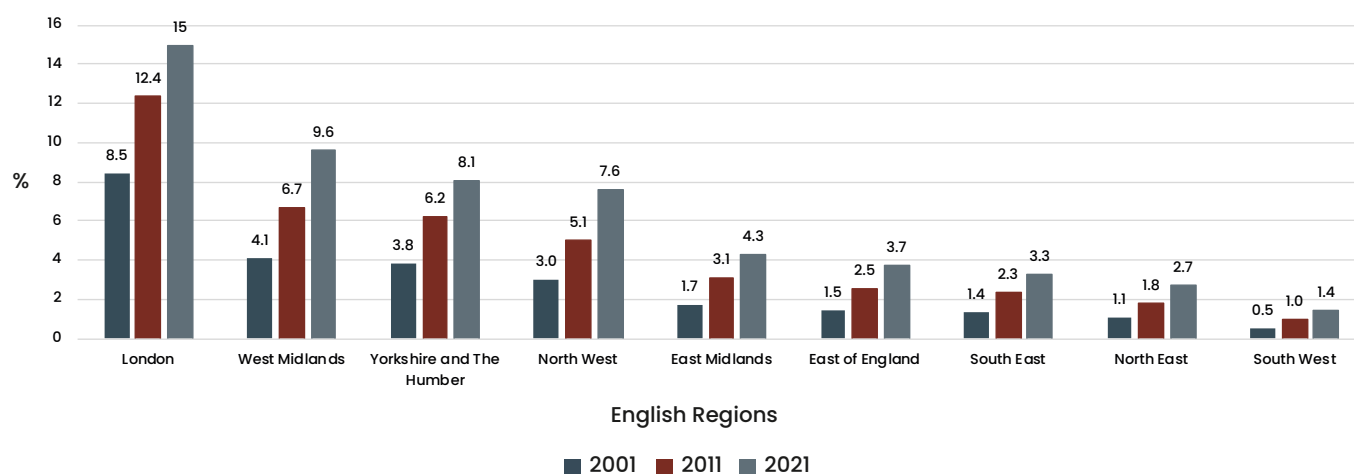
S3.F4: Population by Minority Faiths – 20-year trend – UK



There is a Muslim presence in each of England's 9 regions. Between 2001 and 2011, London had the highest increase in Muslim population as a % of overall population. West Midlands had the highest increase between 2011 and 2021.



S3.F5: Muslim population as % of overall population – 20-year trend – English Regions



3.2 AGE PROFILE

3.2.1 RELIGION BY AGE BAND

The age profile of the Muslim population is skewed towards the younger age groups. The proportion of Muslims aged 15 years or younger is almost double that of the overall population. The estimated median age of Muslims in United Kingdom is 29 years, compared with 44 for the overall population. In the overall population of United Kingdom, 10.6% are in the 16 to 24 age band; for Muslims this is 14.8%.



S3.T10a: Religion by Age band – UK

Religion	All Ages	Aged 0 to 4		Aged 5 to 15		Aged 16 to 24	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	3,998,885	374,078	9.4	869,717	21.7	590,136	14.8
Christian	31,149,217	1,077,786	3.5	3,320,490	10.7	2,286,216	7.3
Buddhist	289,554	6,837	2.4	21,496	7.4	26,121	9.0
Hindu	1,066,891	65,721	6.2	152,017	14.2	100,823	9.5
Jewish	277,171	17,536	6.3	40,708	14.7	27,339	9.9
Sikh	535,130	32,547	6.1	77,128	14.4	56,890	10.6
Other religion	388,781	9,668	2.5	26,760	6.9	41,819	10.8
No religion	25,273,947	1,749,991	6.9	3,686,715	14.6	3,453,760	13.7
Not stated	3,960,987	260,096	6.6	521,562	13.2	519,073	13.1
All Religions	66,940,575	3,594,261	5.4	8,716,596	13.0	7,102,170	10.6



S3.T10b: Religion by Age band – UK

Religion	Aged 25 to 49		Aged 50 to 64		Aged 65 and over	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	1,545,772	38.7	427,475	10.7	191,706	4.8
Christian	8,155,978	26.2	7,345,756	23.6	8,962,997	28.8
Buddhist	129,533	44.7	68,804	23.8	36,764	12.7
Hindu	473,154	44.3	157,363	14.7	117,824	11.0
Jewish	78,523	28.3	47,313	17.1	65,744	23.7
Sikh	214,034	40.0	89,430	16.7	65,108	12.2
Other religion	171,954	44.2	92,526	23.8	46,059	11.8
No religion	9,903,347	39.2	4,201,186	16.6	2,278,946	9.0
Not stated	1,221,887	30.8	723,085	18.3	715,291	18.1
All Religions	21,894,176	32.7	13,152,932	19.6	12,480,436	18.6

1 IN 5

MUSLIMS ARE SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN



**21.7% OF MUSLIMS IN THE UK ARE AGED 5–15
(COMPARED WITH 13% OF THE OVERALL POPULATION)**



S3.T11a: Religion by Age band – E

Religion	All Ages	Aged 0 to 4		Aged 5 to 15		Aged 16 to 24	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	3,801,187	355,317	9.3	827,079	21.8	561,358	14.8
Christian	26,167,899	907,423	3.5	2,796,935	10.7	1,898,355	7.3
Buddhist	262,432	6,372	2.4	19,842	7.6	23,263	8.9
Hindu	1,020,533	62,346	6.1	144,906	14.2	94,847	9.3
Jewish	269,283	17,359	6.4	40,200	14.9	26,117	9.7
Sikh	520,094	31,601	6.1	74,829	14.4	54,959	10.6
Other religion	332,410	8,643	2.6	23,816	7.2	34,916	10.5
No religion	20,715,664	1,457,444	7.0	3,026,806	14.6	2,843,212	13.7
Not stated	3,400,548	230,445	6.8	451,728	13.3	452,206	13.3
All Religions	56,490,050	3,076,950	5.4	7,406,141	13.1	5,989,233	10.6



S3.T11b: Religion by Age band – E

Religion	Aged 25 to 49		Aged 50 to 64		Aged 65 and over		Median
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Age
Muslim	1,466,311	38.6	407,312	10.7	183,810	4.8	27
Christian	6,896,447	26.4	6,148,877	23.5	7,519,862	28.7	51
Buddhist	117,546	44.8	62,135	23.7	33,274	12.7	43
Hindu	449,337	44.0	153,598	15.1	115,499	11.3	37
Jewish	76,266	28.3	45,751	17.0	63,590	23.6	41
Sikh	207,933	40.0	87,091	16.7	63,681	12.2	37
Other religion	147,025	44.2	78,970	23.8	39,040	11.7	41
No religion	8,206,670	39.6	3,377,639	16.3	1,803,893	8.7	32
Not stated	1,078,767	31.7	608,748	17.9	578,654	17.0	36
All Religions	18,646,302	33.0	10,970,121	19.4	10,401,303	18.4	40

S3.T12a: Religion by Age band – W



Religion	All Ages	Aged 0 to 4		Aged 5 to 15		Aged 16 to 24	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	66,948	6,437	9.6	14,579	21.8	10,379	15.5
Christian	1,354,771	35,687	2.6	126,066	9.3	88,774	6.6
Buddhist	10,076	171	1.7	615	6.1	904	9.0
Hindu	12,242	709	5.8	1,663	13.6	1,618	13.2
Jewish	2,041	43	2.1	106	5.2	269	13.2
Sikh	4,048	261	6.4	633	15.6	599	14.8
Other religion	15,923	213	1.3	741	4.7	1,730	10.9
No religion	1,446,399	99,403	6.9	222,763	15.4	200,587	13.9
Not stated	195,040	12,162	6.2	25,825	13.2	24,216	12.4
All Religions	3,107,488	155,086	5.0	392,991	12.6	329,076	10.6

S3.T12b: Religion by Age band – W



Religion	Aged 25 to 49		Aged 50 to 64		Aged 65 and over		Median
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Age
Muslim	26,401	39.4	6,458	9.6	2,694	4.0	26
Christian	299,629	22.1	331,718	24.5	472,897	34.9	56
Buddhist	4,255	42.2	2,674	26.5	1,457	14.5	45
Hindu	5,474	44.7	1,673	13.7	1,105	9.0	34
Jewish	527	25.8	497	24.4	599	29.3	54
Sikh	1,619	40.0	640	15.8	296	7.3	30
Other religion	6,929	43.5	4,273	26.8	2,037	12.8	44
No religion	535,654	37.0	251,759	17.4	136,233	9.4	33
Not stated	49,845	25.6	38,266	19.6	44,726	22.9	42
All Religions	930,333	29.9	637,958	20.5	662,044	21.3	42



S3.T13a: Religion by Age band – S

Religion	All Ages	Aged 0 to 4		Aged 5 to 15		Aged 16 to 24	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	119,872	11,228	9.4	25,675	21.4	17,020	14.2
Christian	2,110,405	50,804	2.4	178,710	8.5	148,546	7.0
Buddhist	15,501	269	1.7	963	6.2	1,747	11.3
Hindu	29,929	2,344	7.8	4,747	15.9	3,965	13.2
Jewish	5,847	134	2.3	402	6.9	953	16.3
Sikh	10,988	685	6.2	1,666	15.2	1,332	12.1
Other religion	31,538	443	1.4	1,342	4.3	4,221	13.4
No religion	2,780,900	166,716	6.0	388,859	14.0	365,773	13.2
Not stated	334,862	15,780	4.7	40,484	12.1	38,937	11.6
All Religions	5,439,842	248,405	4.6	642,844	11.8	582,483	10.7



S3.T13b: Religion by Age band – S

Religion	Aged 25 to 49		Aged 50 to 64		Aged 65 and over		Median
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Age
Muslim	48,286	40.3	12,706	10.6	4,960	4.1	28
Christian	498,362	23.6	552,308	26.2	681,672	32.3	55
Buddhist	6,961	44.9	3,624	23.4	1,939	12.5	42
Hindu	16,046	53.6	1,793	6.0	1,042	3.5	31
Jewish	1,730	29.6	1,065	18.2	1,555	26.6	45
Sikh	4,482	40.8	1,699	15.5	1,131	10.3	35
Other religion	14,586	46.2	7,577	24.0	3,369	10.7	41
No religion	1,028,112	37.0	519,584	18.7	311,855	11.2	32
Not stated	85,377	25.5	71,208	21.3	83,085	24.8	37
All Religions	1,703,936	31.3	1,171,558	21.5	1,090,606	20.0	42



S3.T14a: Religion by Age band – NI

Religion	All Ages	Aged 0 to 4		Aged 5 to 15		Aged 16 to 24	
	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	10,878	1,096	10.1	2,384	21.9	1,379	12.7
Christian	1,516,142	83,872	5.5	218,779	14.4	150,541	9.9
Buddhist	1,545	25	1.6	76	4.9	207	13.4
Hindu	4,187	322	7.7	701	16.7	393	9.4
Jewish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other religion	8,910	369	4.1	861	9.7	952	10.7
No religion	330,984	26,428	8.0	48,287	14.6	44,188	13.4
Not stated	30,537	1,709	5.6	3,525	11.5	3,714	12.2
All Religions	1,903,195	113,820	6.0	274,620	14.4	201,378	10.6



S3.T14b: Religion by Age band – NI

Religion	Aged 25 to 49		Aged 50 to 64		Aged 65 and over		Median
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Age
Muslim	4,774	43.9	999	9.2	242	2.2	28
Christian	461,540	30.4	312,853	20.6	288,566	19.0	41
Buddhist	771	49.9	371	24.0	94	6.1	41
Hindu	2,297	54.9	299	7.1	178	4.3	32
Jewish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sikh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other religion	3,414	38.3	1,706	19.1	1,613	18.1	41
No religion	132,911	40.2	52,204	15.8	26,965	8.1	32
Not stated	7,898	25.9	4,863	15.9	8,826	28.9	44
All Religions	613,605	32.2	373,295	19.6	326,483	17.2	39

Observations

- The increase in the Muslim population is consistent with other faith groups and migration patterns. Immigrants have a younger age profile and hence are more likely to start families – for example the most births in England and Wales in 2021 from non-UK Born mothers have been from Poland and Romania – 14,042 and 10,969 respectively. The age demographics are important for the Muslim population: the MCB has estimated that approximately 36% of all Muslim women entered the 20–39 year age band in the last 10 years, compared with 25% of the overall population. This is the age band in which women predominantly bear children. The population increase is also prompted by family reunion and other reasons for settlement, notably climate change and conflict.
- The contribution to the workforce of a younger Muslim population remains a strategic national asset in the medium term – the demographic dividend. In the longer term, the fertility and age profile of the Muslim population will eventually align with the rest of the nation.

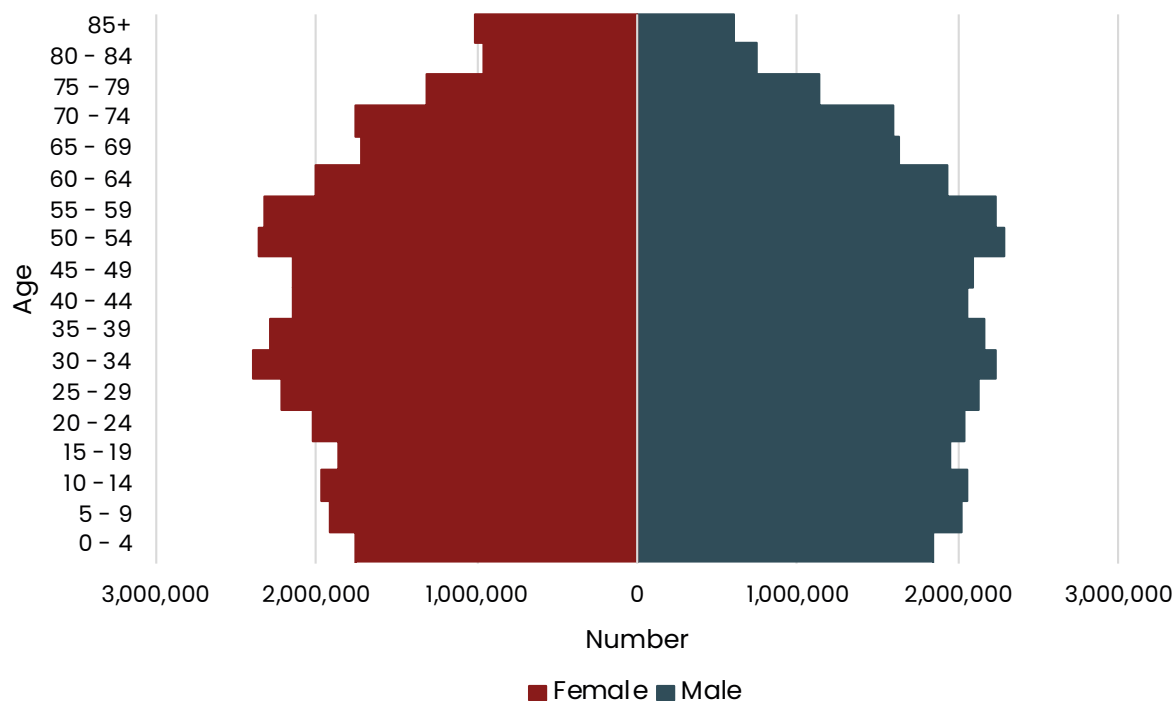
The largest proportion of people coming into the UK is made up of students (about 47%, including dependants). Students aren't expected to work, but do contribute by paying fees towards their degrees, and can't get indefinite leave to remain so either leave the UK or contribute by moving into paid work afterwards. The second largest group are people on working visas, who make up 20%, with their dependants making up 11%.

What do immigration figures for the UK really show? The Guardian, 14 September 2025.

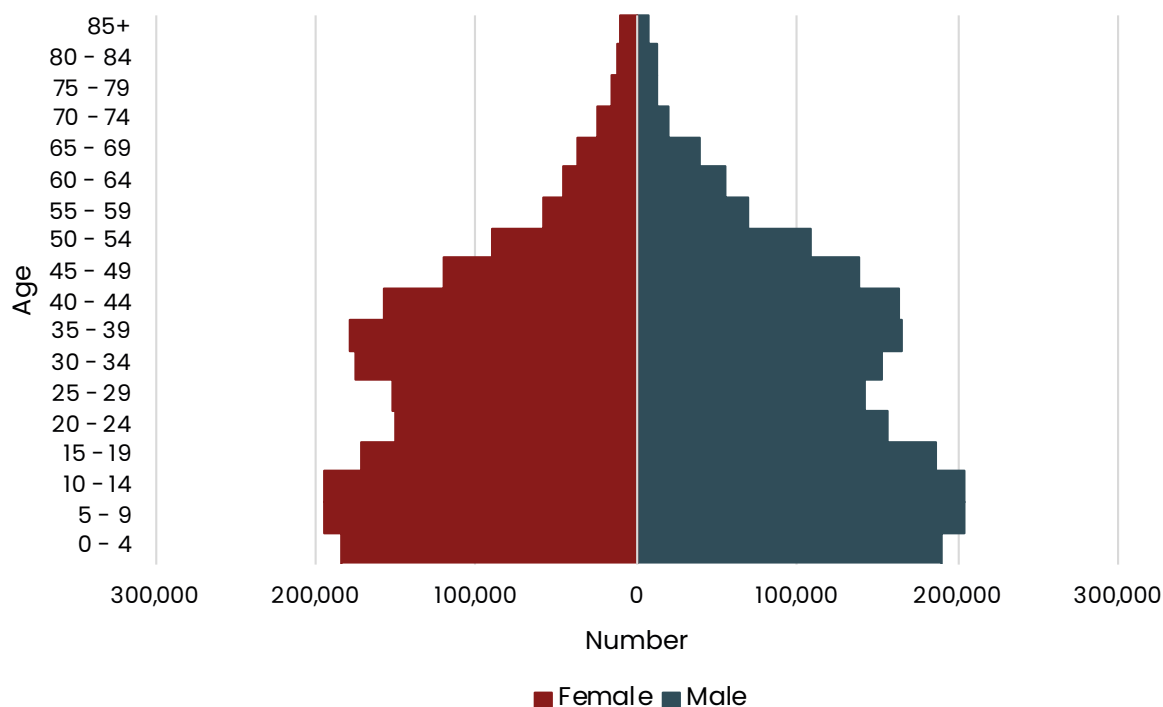
3.2.2 POPULATION PYRAMIDS

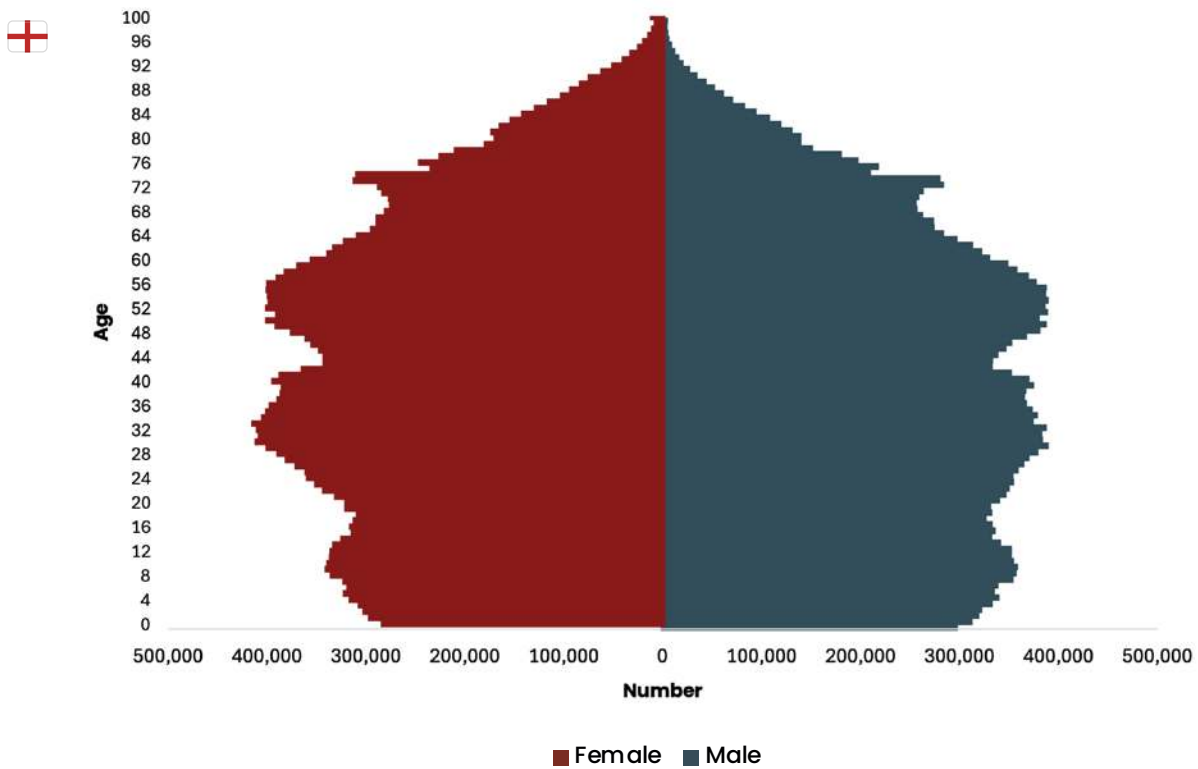
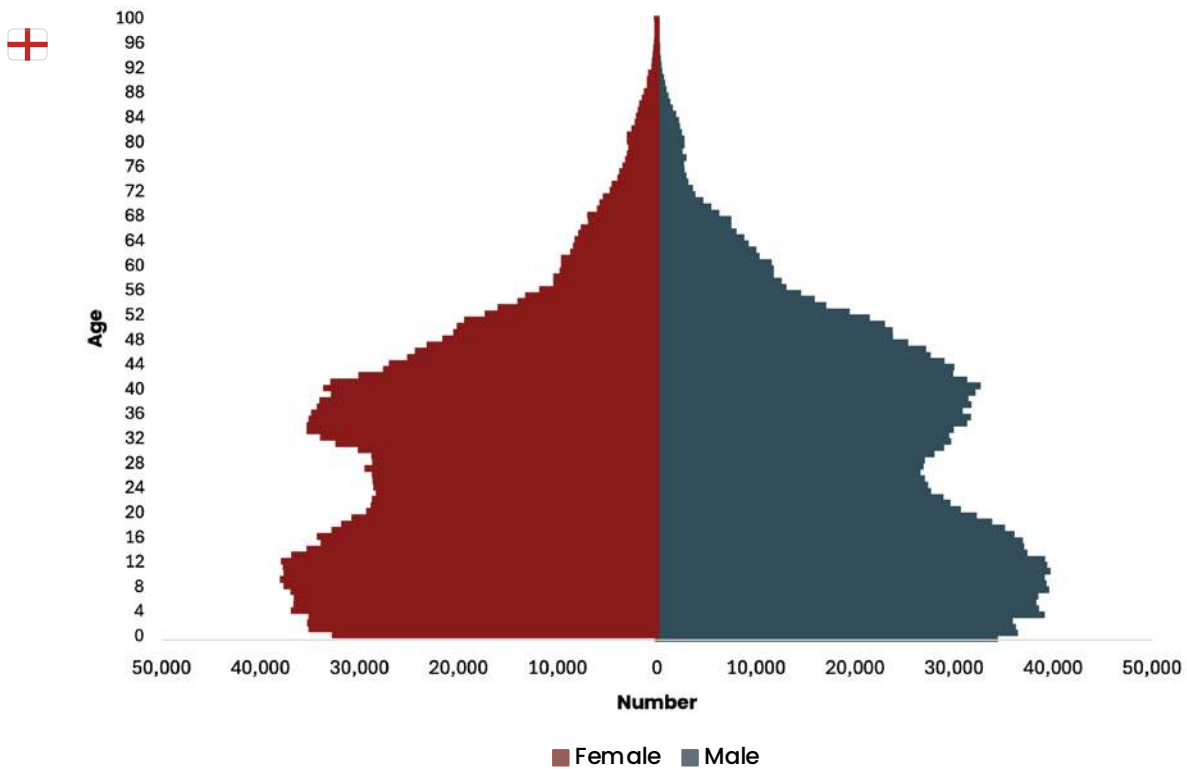


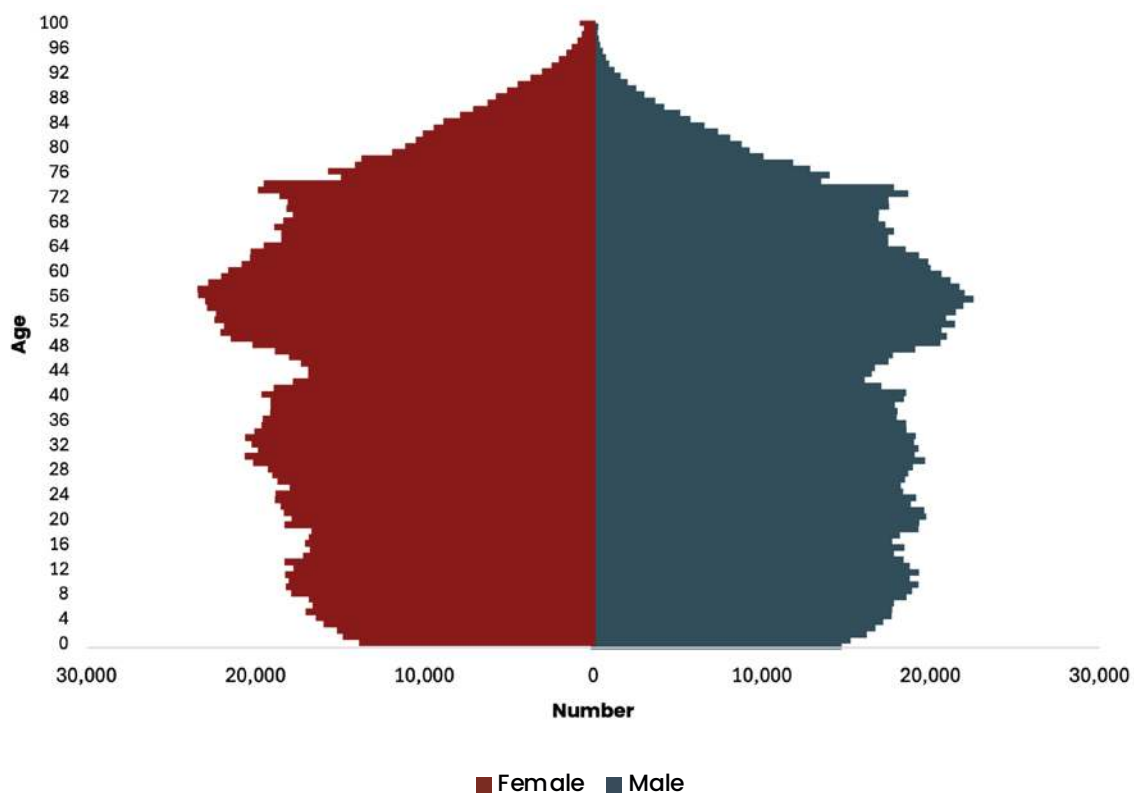
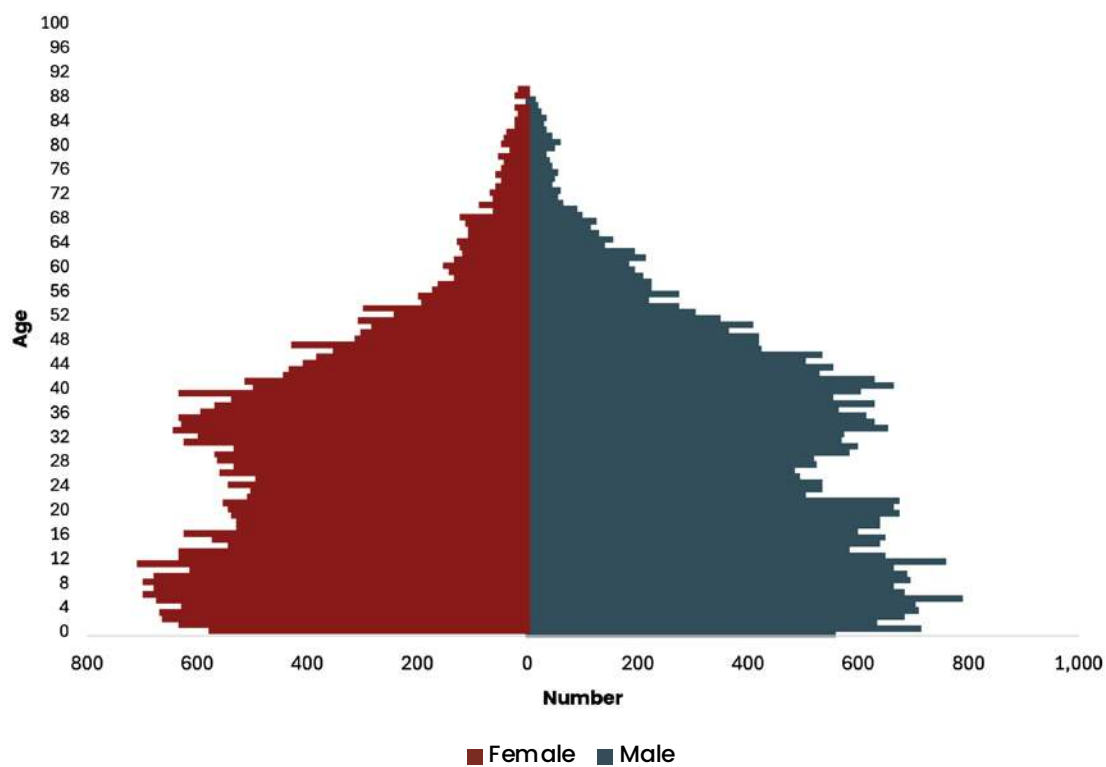
S3.F6: Age-Sex population pyramid – All Religions – UK

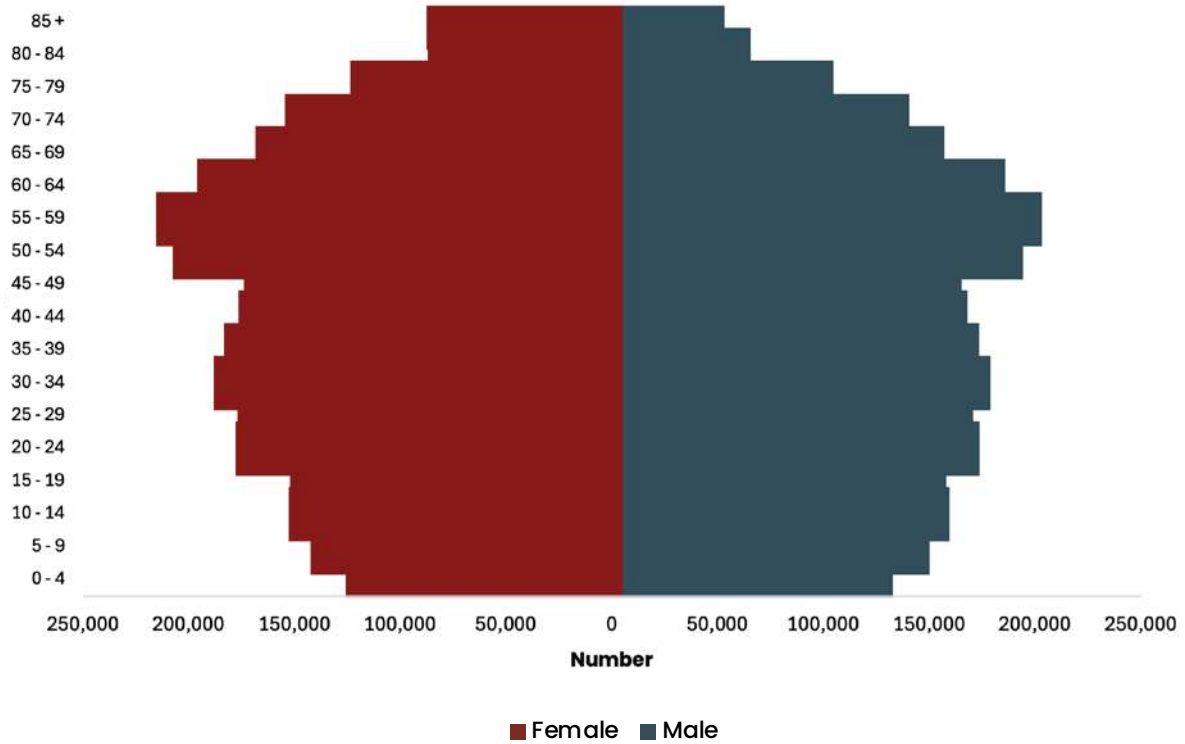
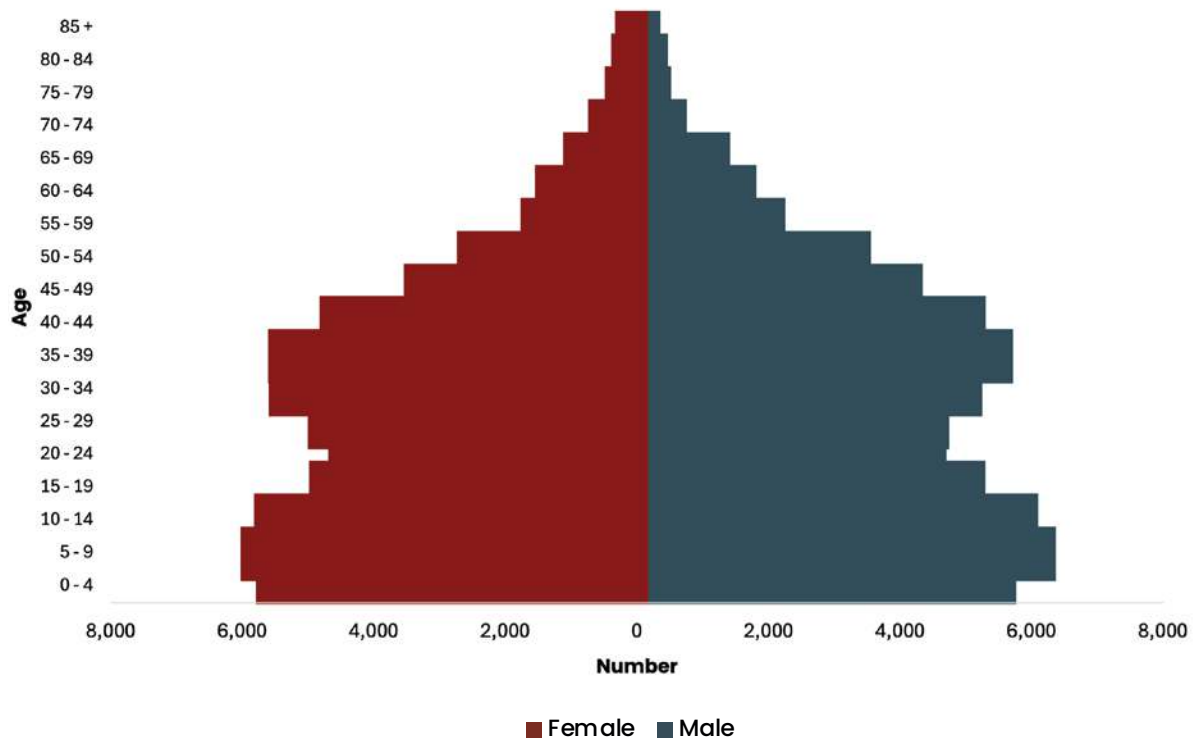


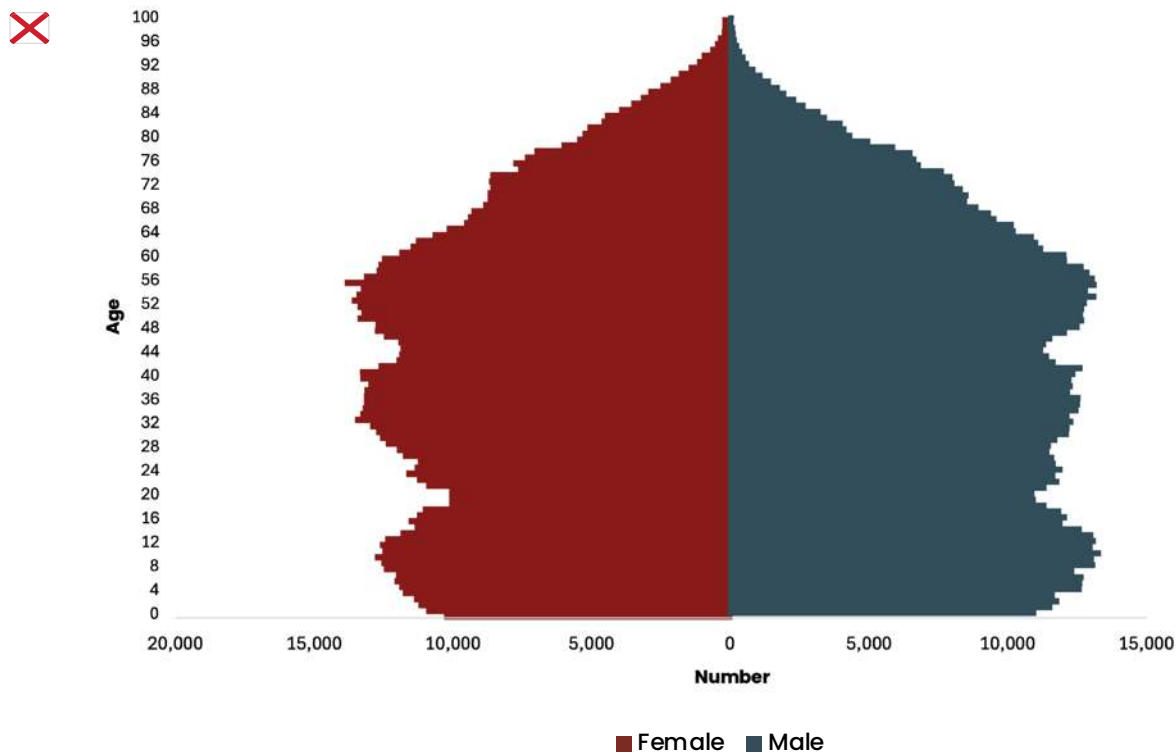
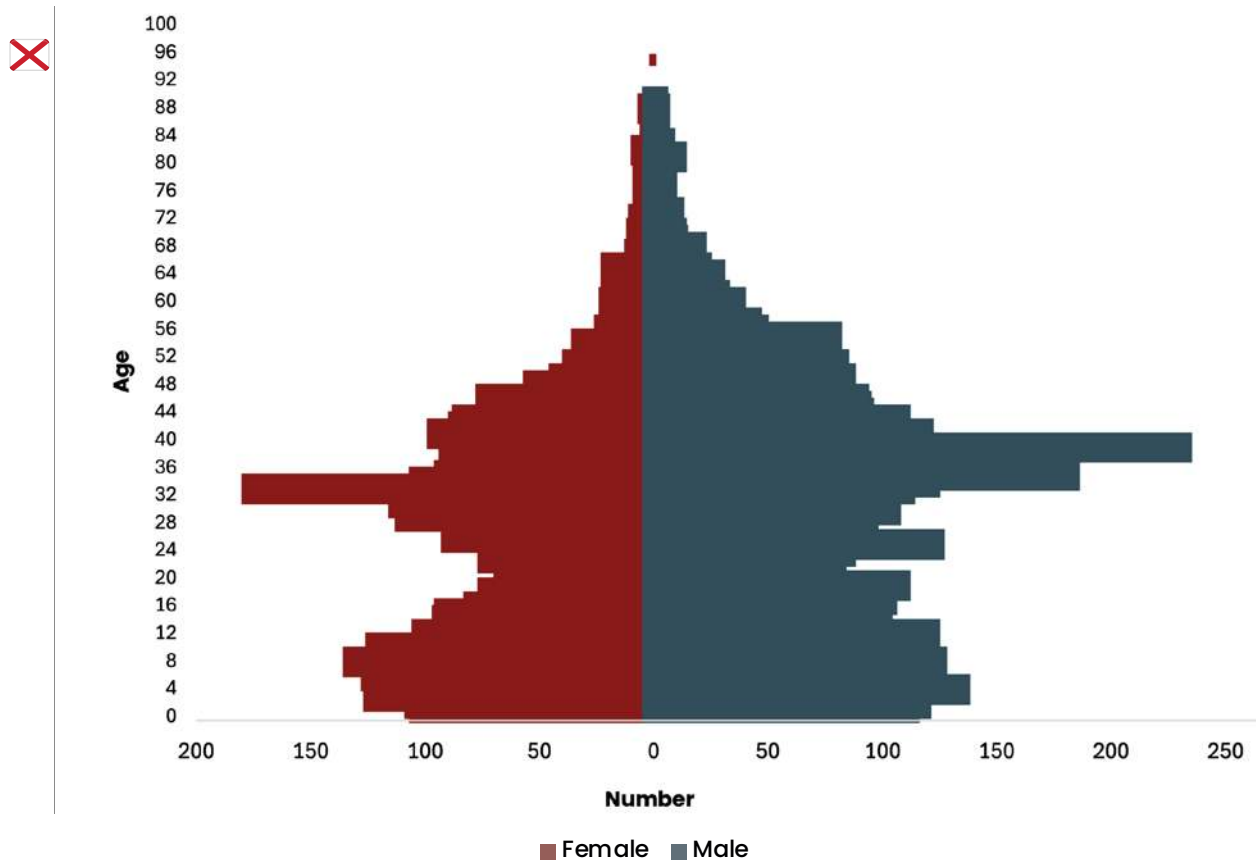
S3.F7: Age-Sex population pyramid – Muslim – UK



S3.F8: Age-Sex population pyramid – All Religions – E**S3.F9: Age-Sex population pyramid – Muslim – E**

S3.F10: Age-Sex population pyramid – All Religions – W**S3.F11: Age-Sex population pyramid – Muslim – W**

S3.F12: Age-Sex population pyramid – All Religions – S**S3.F13: Age-Sex population pyramid – Muslim – S**

S3.F14: Age-Sex population pyramid – All Religions – NI**S3.F15: Age-Sex population pyramid– Muslim – NI**

3.2.3 10-YEAR TREND IN MUSLIM POPULATION BY AGE BANDS

A comparison of the Muslim population in England, Wales and Scotland between 2011 and 2021 (Scotland 2022) indicates that while there have been significant increases in the Muslim population at all ages, the 25-49 year age band saw the biggest gain in number (414,667 in England; 7,976 in Wales and 15,082 in Scotland) and the 0-4 year age band had the smallest increase in number (42,827 in England; 975 in Wales and 2,945 in Scotland). In the decades to come, the large cohort in 25-49 and 50-64 year age bands in 2021/2022 will gradually move to higher age bands, indicating an ageing population to come.

The population aged 65 years and over in England, Wales and Scotland in 2021 (2022 in Scotland) was approximately 191,500. By 2031, including those currently in the 50-64 year age band, the total Muslim population that is over 65 years old could be in the region of 350,000, though factors such as outward migration to country of birth and mortality rates are difficult to assess.

S3.T15: Change in Muslim population between 2011 & 2021, by age band – E



Age Group	Muslim				Muslim Population Change	
	2011	%	2021	%	2011-2021	%
0 - 4	312,490	11.7	355,317	9.3	42,827	13.7
5 - 15	567,971	21.4	827,079	21.8	259,108	45.6
16 - 24	406,460	15.3	561,358	14.8	154,898	38.1
25 - 49	1,051,644	39.5	1,466,311	38.6	414,667	39.4
50 - 64	216,326	8.1	407,312	10.7	190,986	88.3
65+	105,225	4.0	183,810	4.8	78,585	74.7
All ages	2,660,116		3,801,187		1,141,071	

S3.T16: Change in Muslim population between 2011 & 2021, by age band – W



Age Group	Muslim				Muslim Population Change	
	2011	%	2021	%	2011-2021	%
0 - 4	5,462	11.9	6,437	9.6	975	17.9
5 - 15	9,214	20.1	14,579	21.8	5,365	58.2
16 - 24	7,785	16.9	10,379	15.5	2,594	33.3
25 - 49	18,425	40.1	26,401	39.4	7,976	43.3
50 - 64	3,463	7.5	6,458	9.6	2,995	86.5
65+	1,601	3.5	2,694	4.0	1,093	68.3
All ages	45,950		66,948		20,998	

S3.T17: Change in Muslim population between 2011 & 2021, by age band – S

Age Group	Muslim				Muslim Population Change	
	2011	%	2022	%	2011-2022	%
0 – 4	8,283	10.8	11,228	9.4	2,945	35.6
5 – 15	14,261	18.6	25,675	21.4	11,414	80.0
16 – 24	11,933	15.6	17,020	14.2	5,087	42.6
25 – 49	33,204	43.3	48,286	40.3	15,082	45.4
50 – 64	6,529	8.5	12,706	10.6	6,177	94.6
65+	2,527	3.3	4,960	4.1	2,433	96.3
All ages	76,737		119,872		43,135	

The population of Muslim senior citizens will increase significantly over the next decade. Action is needed now to cater for their needs, including promoting awareness of financial saving and the care and housing options available. Older People's Housing (OPH)/Later Living Homes (LLH) schemes will require government support and civil society efforts and collaborations for faith and culture-sensitive home provision.



MUSLIMS ARE A 'COMMUNITY OF COMMUNITIES'

3.3 ETHNIC DIVERSITY

3.3.1 ETHNIC CATEGORIES WITHIN MUSLIM POPULATION

Muslims are a ‘kaleidoscope of communities’ with representation in all ethnic groups, including the Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma.



S3.T18a: Ethnicity of Muslims – UK

Ethnic Group	All Religions		Muslim		% of Muslims within Ethnic Group
	Number	%	Number	%	
White	55,592,837	83.0	234,016	5.9	0.4
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	1,793,255	2.7	147,205	3.7	8.2
Asian/Asian British	5,758,100	8.6	2,630,256	65.8	45.7
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	2,485,718	3.7	429,142	10.7	17.3
Arab	355,967	0.5	296,632	7.4	83.3
Any Other ethnic group	954,671	1.4	261,621	6.5	27.4
All Ethnic groups	66,940,548	100.0	3,998,872	100.0	



S3.T18b: Ethnicity of Muslims – UK

Ethnic Group	All Religions		Muslim		% of Muslims within Ethnic Group
	Number	%	Number	%	
White	55,592,837	83.0	234,016	5.9	0.4
BME (Non White)	11,347,711	17.0	3,764,856	94.1	33.2
All Ethnic groups	66,940,548	100.0	3,998,872	100.0	

In the United Kingdom, 17% of the population is Non-White. 1 in 3 of the ethnic minority is Muslim.

The table indicates, for example, that 66.2% of the Muslim population in England is of Asian/Asian British ethnicity (52.1% in Wales).



S3.T19a: Ethnicity – All Religions, Muslim – E&W

Nation Ethnic Group	England – Census 2021				Wales – Census 2021			
	All Religions		Muslim		All Religions		Muslim	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White: Total	45,783,403	81.0	220,880	5.8	2,915,847	93.8	5,355	8.0
English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	41,540,791	73.5	87,889	2.3	2,814,247	90.6	3,050	4.6
Irish	494,251	0.9	1,339	0.0	13,214	0.4	47	0.1
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	64,217	0.1	444	0.0	3,550	0.1	13	0.0
Roma	99,140	0.2	2,012	0.1	1,843	0.1	16	0.0
Other White	3,585,004	6.3	129,196	3.4	82,993	2.7	2,229	3.3
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	1,669,377	3.0	138,297	3.6	48,597	1.6	3,748	5.6
White and Asian	474,190	0.8	54,938	1.4	14,036	0.5	1,327	2.0
White and Black African	241,528	0.4	22,365	0.6	8,068	0.3	713	1.1
White and Black Caribbean	499,309	0.9	5,348	0.1	13,730	0.4	179	0.3
Other Mixed	454,350	0.8	55,646	1.5	12,763	0.4	1,529	2.3
Asian/Asian British: Total	5,426,391	9.6	2,515,133	66.2	89,024	2.9	34,888	52.1
Indian	1,843,248	3.3	245,681	6.5	21,071	0.7	1,287	1.9
Pakistani	1,570,285	2.8	1,454,944	38.3	17,534	0.6	15,831	23.6
Bangladeshi	629,566	1.1	579,117	15.2	15,312	0.5	14,018	20.9
Chinese	431,165	0.8	1,800	0.0	14,452	0.5	90	0.1
Other Asian	952,127	1.7	233,591	6.1	20,655	0.7	3,662	5.5
Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British: Total	2,381,718	4.2	408,320	10.7	27,554	0.9	8,007	12.0
African	1,468,471	2.6	370,967	9.8	19,907	0.6	7,252	10.8
Caribbean	619,419	1.1	7,105	0.2	3,700	0.1	62	0.1
Other Black	293,828	0.5	30,248	0.8	3,947	0.1	693	1.0
Other ethnic group: Total	1,229,155	2.2	518,556	13.6	26,466	0.9	14,948	22.3
Arab	320,205	0.6	267,727	7.0	11,641	0.4	10,010	15.0
Any other ethnic group	908,950	1.6	250,829	6.6	14,825	0.5	4,938	7.4
All Ethnic Groups	56,490,044	100.0	3,801,186	100.0	3,107,488	100.0	66,946	100.0

S3.T19b: Ethnicity – All Religions, Muslim – S&NI



Nation Ethnic Group	Scotland – Census 2022				Northern Ireland – Census 2021			
	All Religions		Muslim		All Religions		Muslim	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White: Total	5,051,874	92.9	5,519	4.6	1,841,713	96.8	2,262	20.8
English/Welsh/Scottish/ Northern Irish/British	4,737,319	87.1	2,540	2.1	1,837,575	96.6	2,256	20.8
Irish	56,877	1.0	45	0.0	-	-	-	-
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3,343	0.1	31	0.0	2,609	0.1	4	0.0
Roma	3,218	0.1	42	0.0	1,529	0.1	2	0.0
Other White	251,117	4.6	2,861	2.4	-	-	-	-
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	60,899	1.1	4,293	3.6	14,382	0.8	867	8.0
White and Asian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White and Black African	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White and Black Caribbean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Mixed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian/Asian British: Total	212,018	3.9	76,702	64.0	30,667	1.6	3,533	32.5
Indian	52,951	1.0	3,197	2.7	9,881	0.5	626	5.8
Pakistani	72,871	1.3	61,743	51.5	1,596	0.1	1,357	12.5
Bangladeshi	6,934	0.1	5,611	4.7	-	-	-	-
Chinese	47,075	0.9	130	0.1	9,495	0.5	14	0.1
Other Asian	32,187	0.6	6,021	5.0	9,695	0.5	1,536	14.1
Black/African/Caribbean/ Black British: Total	65,414	1.2	10,785	9.0	11,032	0.6	2,030	18.7
African	58,636	1.1	10,512	8.8	8,069	0.4	1,878	17.3
Caribbean	2,760	0.1	53	0.0	-	-	-	-
Other Black	4,018	0.1	220	0.2	2,963	0.2	152	1.4
Other ethnic group: Total	49,632	0.9	22,571	18.8	5,385	0.3	2,178	20.0
Arab	22,304	0.4	17,358	14.5	1,817	0.1	1,537	14.1
Any other ethnic group	27,328	0.5	5,213	4.3	3,568	0.2	641	5.9
All Ethnic Groups	5,439,842	100.0	119,872	100.0	1,903,179	100.0	10,870	100.0

S3.T20: Religion by Ethnic group – All Religions, Muslim – E



Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	
	Number	Number	%
White: Total	45,783,403	220,880	0.5
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	41,540,791	87,889	0.2
Irish	494,251	1,339	0.3
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	64,217	444	0.7
Roma	99,140	2,012	2.0
Other White	3,585,004	129,196	3.6
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	1,669,377	138,297	8.3
White and Asian	474,190	54,938	11.6
White and Black African	241,528	22,365	9.3
White and Black Caribbean	499,309	5,348	1.1
Other Mixed	454,350	55,646	12.2
Asian/Asian British: Total	5,426,391	2,515,133	46.4
Indian	1,843,248	245,681	13.3
Pakistani	1,570,285	1,454,944	92.7
Bangladeshi	629,566	579,117	92.0
Chinese	431,165	1,800	0.4
Other Asian	952,127	233,591	24.5
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total	2,381,718	408,320	17.1
African	1,468,471	370,967	25.3
Caribbean	619,419	7,105	1.1
Other Black	293,828	30,248	10.3
Other ethnic group: Total	1,229,155	518,556	42.2
Arab	320,205	267,727	83.6
Any other ethnic group	908,950	250,829	27.6
All Ethnic Groups	56,490,044	3,801,186	6.7

The table indicates, for example that 46.4% of the population in the Asian/Asian British ethnic category is Muslim.

S3.T21: Religion by Ethnic group – All Religions, Muslim – W



Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	
	Number	Number	%
White: Total	2,915,847	5,355	0.2
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	2,814,247	3,050	0.1
Irish	13,214	47	0.4
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3,550	13	0.4
Roma	1,843	16	0.9
Other White	82,993	2,229	2.7
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	48,597	3,748	7.7
White and Asian	14,036	1,327	9.5
White and Black African	8,068	713	8.8
White and Black Caribbean	13,730	179	1.3
Other Mixed	12,763	1,529	12.0
Asian/Asian British: Total	89,024	34,888	39.2
Indian	21,071	1,287	6.1
Pakistani	17,534	15,831	90.3
Bangladeshi	15,312	14,018	91.5
Chinese	14,452	90	0.6
Other Asian	20,655	3,662	17.7
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total	27,554	8,007	29.1
African	19,907	7,252	36.4
Caribbean	3,700	62	1.7
Other Black	3,947	693	17.6
Other ethnic group: Total	26,466	14,948	56.5
Arab	11,641	10,010	86.0
Any other ethnic group	14,825	4,938	33.3
All Ethnic Groups	3,107,488	66,946	2.2



S3.T22: Religion by Ethnic group – All Religions, Muslim – S

Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	
	Number	Number	%
White: Total	5,051,874	5,519	0.1
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	4,737,319	2,540	0.1
Irish	56,877	45	0.1
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3,343	31	0.9
Roma	3,218	42	1.3
Other White	251,117	2,861	1.1
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	60,899	4,293	7.0
White and Asian	-	-	-
White and Black African	-	-	-
White and Black Caribbean	-	-	-
Other Mixed	-	-	-
Asian/Asian British: Total	212,018	76,702	36.2
Indian	52,951	3,197	6.0
Pakistani	72,871	61,743	84.7
Bangladeshi	6,934	5,611	80.9
Chinese	47,075	130	0.3
Other Asian	32,187	6,021	18.7
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total	65,414	10,785	16.5
African	58,636	10,512	17.9
Caribbean	2,760	53	1.9
Other Black	4,018	220	5.5
Other ethnic group: Total	49,632	22,571	45.5
Arab	22,304	17,358	77.8
Any other ethnic group	27,328	5,213	19.1
All Ethnic Groups	5,439,842	119,872	2.2

S3.T23: Religion by Ethnic group – All Religions, Muslim – NI



Ethnic Group	All Religions	Muslim	
	Number	Number	%
White: Total	1,841,713	2,262	0.1
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	1,837,575	2,256	0.1
Irish	-	-	-
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2,609	4	0.2
Roma	1,529	2	0.1
Other White	-	-	-
Mixed/multiple ethnic group: Total	14,382	867	6.0
White and Asian	-	-	-
White and Black African	-	-	-
White and Black Caribbean	-	-	-
Other Mixed	-	-	-
Asian/Asian British: Total	30,667	3,533	11.5
Indian	9,881	626	6.3
Pakistani	1,596	1,357	84.8
Bangladeshi	-	-	-
Chinese	9,495	14	0.1
Other Asian	9,695	1,536	15.8
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Total	11,032	2,030	18.4
African	8,069	1,878	23.3
Caribbean	-	-	-
Other Black	2,963	152	5.1
Other ethnic group: Total	5,385	2,178	40.4
Arab	1,817	1,537	84.6
Any other ethnic group	3,568	641	18.0
All Ethnic Groups	1,903,179	10,870	0.6

3.3.2 20-YEAR TREND OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY WITHIN MUSLIM POPULATION

In the period 2001–2021, the ethnic mix of the Muslim population has diversified. For example, in England and Wales the proportion of Asian ethnicity continued to fall, while the proportion in the Black ethnic group rose. This is noticeable in Wales, where the population of the latter ethnicity increased from 1,631 in 2001, to 8,007 in 2021. Arab ethnicity was first recorded on the 2011 Census. Between 2011 and 2021, this ethnic population increased from 170,300 to 267,727 in England, and from 7,505 to 17,358 in Scotland.



S3.T24: Ethnicity, Muslims – 20-Year Trend – E

Ethnic Group	Muslim 2001		Muslim 2011		Muslim 2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	177,231	11.6	206,982	7.8	220,880	5.8
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	62,496	4.1	100,383	3.8	138,297	3.6
Asian/Asian British	1,125,420	73.8	1,805,375	67.9	2,515,133	66.2
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	104,714	6.9	267,294	10.0	408,320	10.7
Arab	–	–	170,300	6.4	267,727	7.0
Any Other ethnic group	54,291	3.6	109,782	4.1	250,829	6.6
All Ethnic Groups	1,524,152	100.0	2,660,116	100.0	3,801,186	100.0



S3.T25: Ethnicity, Muslims – 20-Year Trend – W

Ethnic Group	Muslim 2001		Muslim 2011		Muslim 2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	2,542	11.7	3,638	7.9	5,355	8.0
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	1,766	8.1	2,199	4.8	3,748	5.6
Asian/Asian British	14,397	66.3	25,185	54.8	34,888	52.1
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	1,631	7.5	4,721	10.3	8,007	12.0
Arab	–	–	7,895	17.2	10,010	15.0
Any Other ethnic group	1,386	6.4	2,312	5.0	4,938	7.4
All Ethnic Groups	21,722	100.0	45,950	100.0	66,946	100.0

**S3.T26: Ethnicity, Muslims – 20-Year Trend – S**

Ethnic Group	Muslim 2001		Muslim 2011		Muslim 2022	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	–	–	5,983	7.8	5,519	4.6
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	–	–	1,342	1.7	4,293	3.6
Asian/Asian British	–	–	54,870	71.5	76,702	64.0
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	–	–	5,380	7.0	10,785	9.0
Arab	–	–	7,505	9.8	17,358	14.5
Any Other ethnic group	–	–	1,657	2.2	5,213	4.3
All Ethnic Groups	–	–	76,737	100.0	119,870	100.0

**S3.T27: Ethnicity, Muslims – 20-Year Trend – NI**

Ethnic Group	Muslim 2001		Muslim 2011		Muslim 2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White	–	–	–	–	2,256	20.8
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	–	–	–	–	867	8.0
Asian/Asian British	–	–	–	–	3,533	32.5
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	–	–	–	–	2,030	18.7
Arab	–	–	–	–	1,537	14.1
Any Other ethnic group	–	–	–	–	647	6.0
All Ethnic Groups	–	–	–	–	10,870	100.0

There are, in England 138,297; in Wales 3,748; in Scotland 4,293; in Northern Ireland 867 Muslims in the mixed/multiple ethnic group category at the Census date in 2021 (2022 in Scotland). In England, this is 3.6% (5.6% Wales, 3.6% Scotland, 8% Northern Ireland) of the overall Muslim population. This proportion in England, is higher than other faiths with the exception of the Buddhists and the 'Other religion' category.



S3.T28: Mixed Ethnic group by Religion – 20-Year Trend – E

Religion	Census 2001			Census 2011			Census 2021		
	All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group		All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group		All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group	
	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
Muslim	1,524,887	62,496	4.1	2,660,116	100,383	3.8	3,801,185	138,297	3.6
Christian	35,251,244	337,839	1.0	31,479,876	552,842	1.8	26,167,899	611,454	2.3
Buddhist	139,046	4,531	3.3	238,626	9,585	4.0	262,433	10,589	4.0
Hindu	546,982	5,647	1.0	806,199	9,636	1.2	1,020,533	10,794	1.1
Jewish	257,671	3,038	1.2	261,282	4,209	1.6	269,283	6,029	2.2
Sikh	327,343	2,722	0.8	420,196	5,025	1.2	520,092	6,907	1.3
Other religion	143,811	3,703	2.6	227,825	7,133	3.1	332,410	16,602	5.0
No religion	7,171,332	149,215	2.1	13,114,232	383,998	2.9	20,715,665	726,430	3.5
Not stated	3,776,515	74,182	2.0	3,804,104	120,068	3.2	3,400,548	142,277	4.2
All Religions	49,138,831	643,373	1.3	53,012,456	1,192,879	2.3	56,490,048	1,669,379	3.0



S3.T29: Mixed Ethnic group by Religion – 20-Year Trend – W

Religion	Census 2001			Census 2011			Census 2021		
	All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group		All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group		All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group	
	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
Muslim	21,739	1,766	8.1	45,950	2,199	4.8	66,950	3,748	5.6
Christian	2,087,242	8,924	0.4	1,763,299	13,521	0.8	1,354,773	15,958	1.2
Buddhist	5,407	116	2.1	9,117	270	3.0	10,075	415	4.1
Hindu	5,439	77	1.4	10,434	125	1.2	12,242	201	1.6
Jewish	2,261	67	3.0	2,064	40	1.9	2,044	55	2.7
Sikh	2,012	38	1.9	2,962	97	3.3	4,048	117	2.9
Other religion	6,911	125	1.8	12,705	233	1.8	15,928	456	2.9
No religion	537,935	4,476	0.8	982,997	11,850	1.2	1,446,399	23,835	1.6
Not stated	234,143	2,069	0.9	233,928	3,186	1.4	195,041	3,814	2.0
All Religions	2,903,089	17,658	0.6	3,063,456	31,521	1.0	3,107,500	48,599	1.6



S3.T30: Mixed Ethnic group by Religion – 20-Year Trend – S

Religion	Census 2001			Census 2011			Census 2022		
	All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group		All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group		All Ethnic Groups	Mixed Ethnic Group	
	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
Muslim	-	-	-	76,737	1,342	1.7	119,872	4,293	3.6
Christian	-	-	-	2,850,199	6,991	0.2	2,110,405	16,375	0.8
Buddhist	-	-	-	12,795	242	1.9	15,501	507	3.3
Hindu	-	-	-	16,379	75	0.5	29,929	316	1.1
Jewish	-	-	-	5,887	102	1.7	5,847	245	4.2
Sikh	-	-	-	9,055	50	0.6	10,988	194	1.8
Other religion	-	-	-	15,196	220	1.4	31,538	1,005	3.2
No religion	-	-	-	1,941,116	8,912	0.5	2,780,900	33,090	1.2
Not stated	-	-	-	368,039	1,881	0.5	334,862	4,872	1.5
All Religions	-	-	-	5,295,403	19,815	0.4	5,439,842	60,899	1.1

Observations

- The 'White' ethnic category includes persons of English (or Scottish, Welsh or Irish) stock who have found the path to Islam, other indigenous European Muslims, and some individuals from Arab, Iranian, and other backgrounds who self-identify as 'White'.
- The 'Any Other Ethnic Group' population is based on responses to the write-in option in the ethnicity question and includes a proportion of Kurds and Somali not selecting another ethnic category.
- The proportion of the Muslim population of mixed/multiple ethnicity is greater than in the Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Sikh faith groups – Muslims can draw on their own experience of diversity to be bridge-builders and foster good relations within wider society. As a faith community which has a stake in multiculturalism, Muslims are well aligned with those who have a nobler vision for modern Britain.

Look closely at our Muslim organisations in Britain: national bodies, charities, mosque committees. Where are the Black voices? And when they are present, are they there to genuinely lead, or simply to be seen in a photograph, to tick a box, to allow an organisation to say: 'We are diverse'? How many shape the agenda? How many control the budget? How many have the authority to speak without being 'approved' by others first?

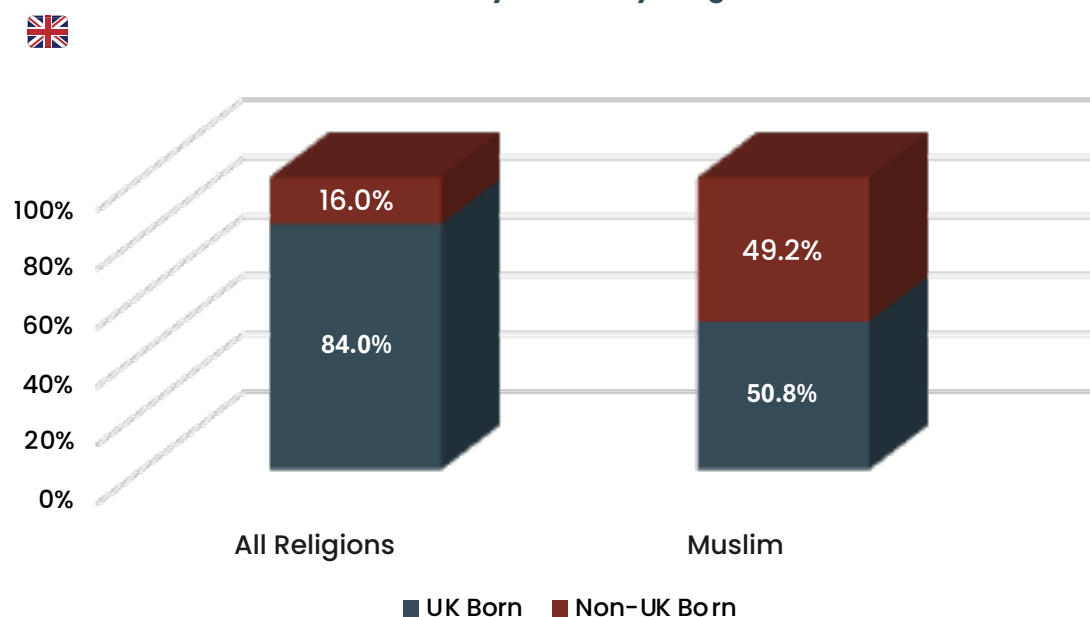
Shaima Dalali. Our Muslim communities must change: my Black History Month reflections, muslimcouncil@substack.com. 31 October 2025.

3.4 COUNTRY OF BIRTH

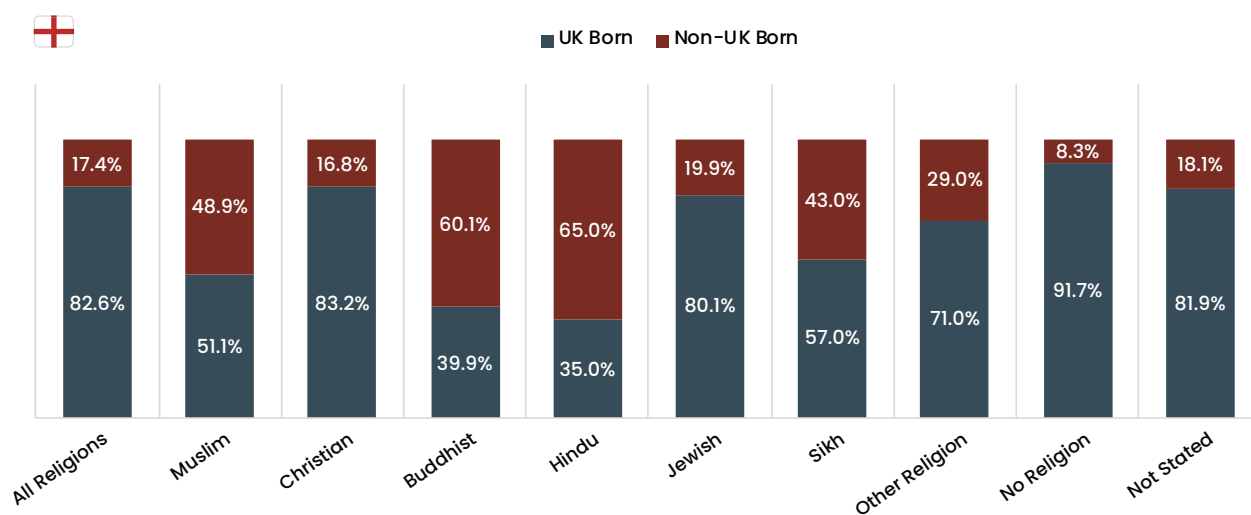
3.4.1 COUNTRY OF BIRTH BY RELIGION (UK AND 4 NATIONS)

For the first time since the introduction of the religion question in the Census, the majority of Muslims in United Kingdom are UK-Born – 50.8% (England UK Born – 51.1% Wales UK-Born – 45.8%, Scotland UK-Born – 43.8% and Northern Ireland UK-Born – 26.5%).

S3.F16: Country of Birth by Religion – UK

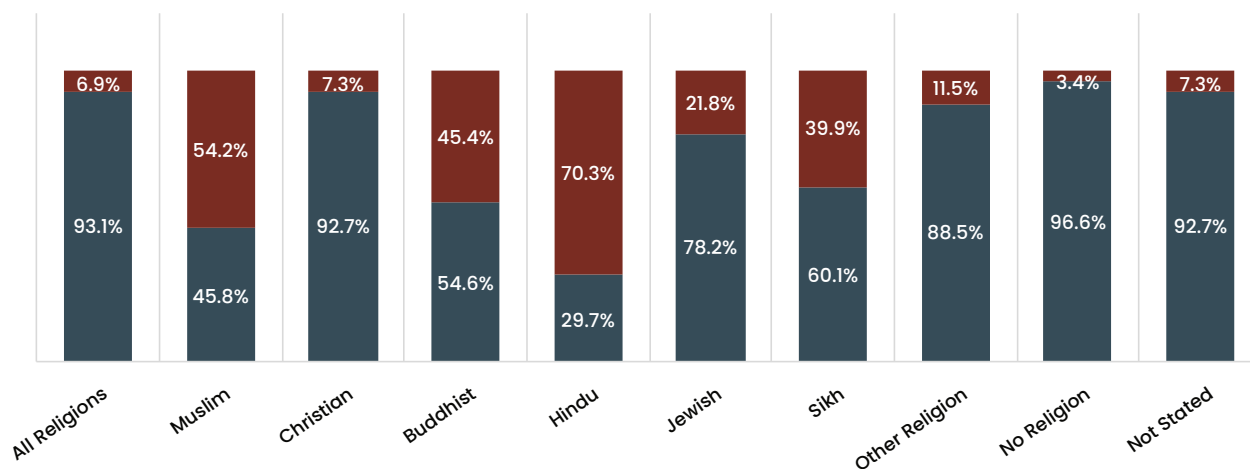


S3.F17: Country of Birth by Religion – E

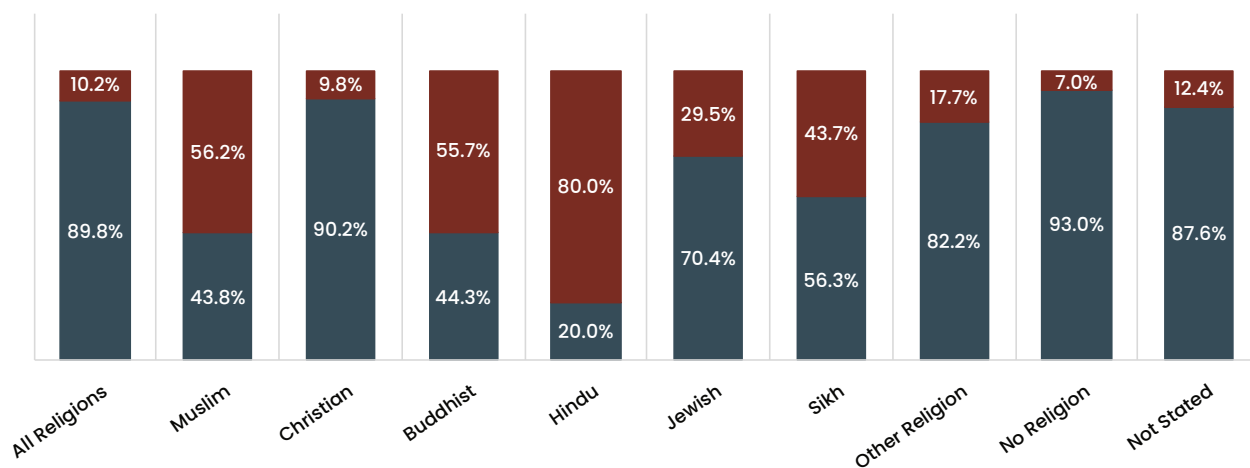


S3 F18: Country of Birth by Religion – W

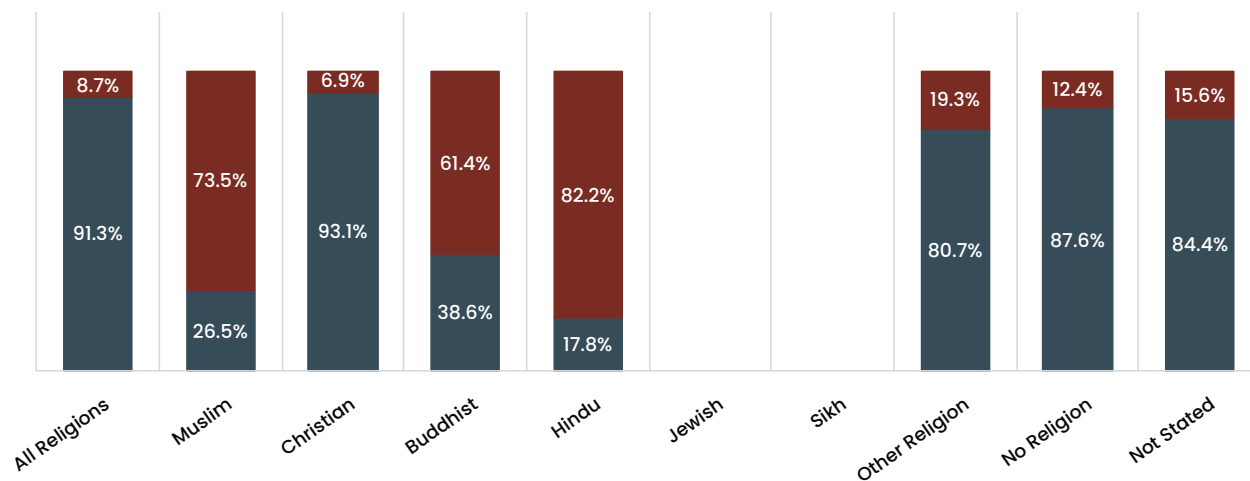
■ UK Born ■ Non-UK Born

**S3.F19: Country of Birth by Religion – S**

■ UK Born ■ Non-UK Born

**S3.F20: Country of Birth by Religion – NI**

■ UK Born ■ Non-UK Born



3.4.2 COUNTRY OF BIRTH BY RELIGION (REGIONS AND LAD LEVEL)

Among the English regions, the Muslim UK Born proportion is higher than 50% in Yorkshire and The Humber (59.6%), West Midlands (56.6%), North West (52.2%) and East of England (51.2%).



S3.T31: Country of Birth – All Religions, Muslim – Regions

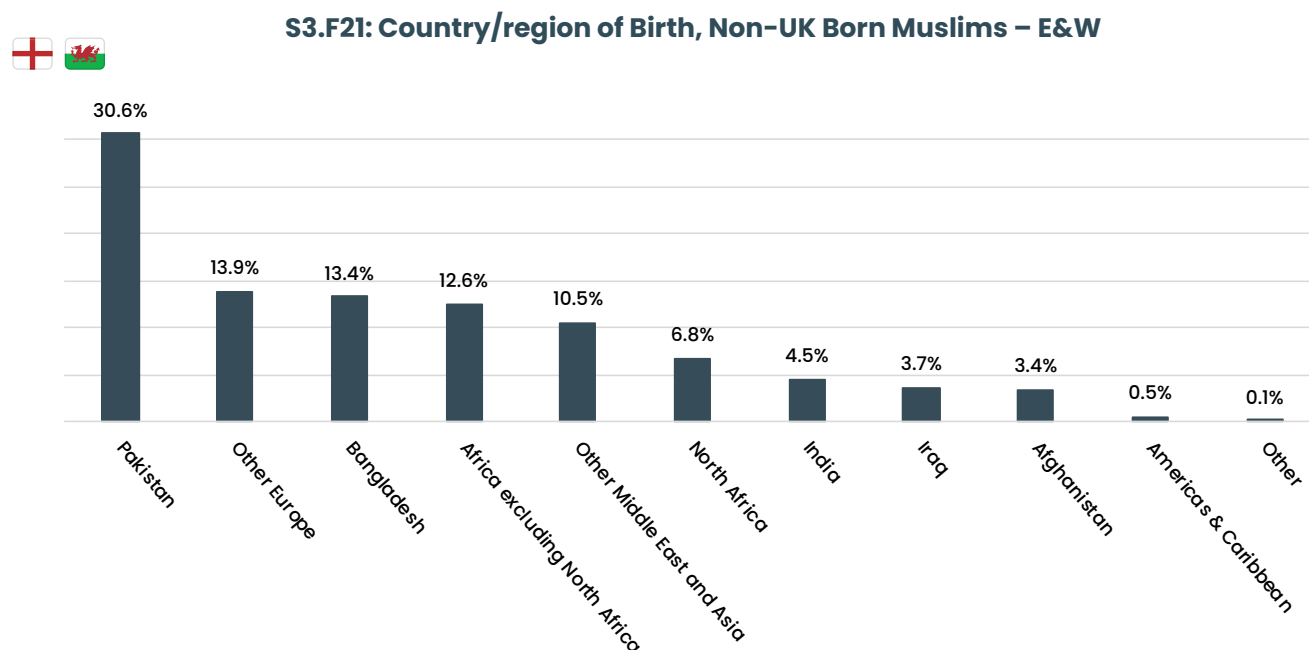
Area Name	Grand Total	Grand Total	UK Born				Non-UK Born			
	All Religions	Muslim	All Religions		Muslim		All Religions		Muslim	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
North East	2,647,013	72,102	2,467,870	93.2	34,881	48.4	179,143	6.8	37,221	51.6
North West	7,417,399	563,105	6,551,995	88.3	294,062	52.2	865,404	11.7	269,043	47.8
Yorkshire and The Humber	5,480,772	442,533	4,858,514	88.6	263,748	59.6	622,258	11.4	178,785	40.4
East Midlands	4,880,056	210,766	4,210,674	86.3	104,702	49.7	669,382	13.7	106,064	50.3
West Midlands	5,950,757	569,963	5,048,322	84.8	322,600	56.6	902,435	15.2	247,363	43.4
East of England	6,335,075	234,744	5,390,706	85.1	120,140	51.2	944,369	14.9	114,604	48.8
London	8,799,726	1,318,754	5,223,986	59.4	619,560	47.0	3,575,740	40.6	699,194	53.0
South East	9,278,067	309,067	7,815,952	84.2	149,788	48.5	1,462,115	15.8	159,279	51.5
South West	5,701,186	80,152	5,119,492	89.8	34,340	42.8	581,694	10.2	45,812	57.2
England	56,490,051	3,801,186	46,687,511	82.6	1,943,821	51.1	9,802,540	17.4	1,857,365	48.9
Wales	3,107,494	66,947	2,892,064	93.1	30,660	45.8	215,430	6.9	36,287	54.2
Scotland	5,439,842	119,872	4,884,961	89.8	52,426	43.7	554,884	10.2	67,393	56.2
Northern Ireland	1,903,182	10,871	1,738,538	91.3	2,884	26.5	164,644	8.7	7,987	73.5
United Kingdom	66,940,569	3,998,876	56,203,074	84.0	2,029,791	50.8	10,737,498	16.0	1,969,032	49.2

The lowest proportion of UK Born Muslims are in Northern Ireland (26.5%).


S3.T32: LADs with UK Born Muslim population > 50% – E

Area Name	Grand Total	Grand Total	UK Born				Non-UK Born			
	All Religions	Muslim	All Religions		Muslim		All Religions		Muslim	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bradford	546,411	166,846	444,477	81.3	108,334	64.9	101,934	18.7	58,512	35.1
Kirklees	433,214	80,046	378,708	87.4	51,776	64.7	54,506	12.6	28,270	35.3
Blackburn with Darwen	154,738	54,146	126,745	81.9	34,794	64.3	27,993	18.1	19,352	35.7
Walsall	284,124	32,107	242,162	85.2	19,643	61.2	41,962	14.8	12,464	38.8
Buckinghamshire	553,076	38,740	461,027	83.4	23,379	60.3	92,049	16.6	15,361	39.7
Dudley	323,488	19,978	297,930	92.1	11,855	59.3	25,558	7.9	8,123	40.7
Oldham	242,086	59,031	201,823	83.4	34,947	59.2	40,263	16.6	24,084	40.8
Rochdale	223,771	42,122	189,122	84.5	24,538	58.3	34,649	15.5	17,584	41.7
Birmingham	1,144,921	341,813	838,959	73.3	196,485	57.5	305,962	26.7	145,328	42.5
Peterborough	215,675	26,240	154,787	71.8	14,956	57.0	60,888	28.2	11,284	43.0
Pendle	95,756	24,900	78,851	82.3	14,043	56.4	16,905	17.7	10,857	43.6
Sandwell	341,833	45,763	261,213	76.4	25,704	56.2	80,620	23.6	20,059	43.8
Stoke-on-Trent	258,372	23,790	224,531	86.9	13,190	55.4	33,841	13.1	10,600	44.6
Luton	225,262	74,193	138,675	61.6	40,726	54.9	86,587	38.4	33,467	45.1
Tower Hamlets	310,308	123,912	165,083	53.2	67,664	54.6	145,225	46.8	56,248	45.4
Waltham Forest	278,428	60,157	171,072	61.4	32,309	53.7	107,356	38.6	27,848	46.3
Leeds	811,952	63,054	683,682	84.2	33,627	53.3	128,270	15.8	29,427	46.7
Bolton	295,964	58,997	245,907	83.1	30,903	52.4	50,057	16.9	28,094	47.6
Redbridge	310,261	97,068	174,964	56.4	50,648	52.2	135,297	43.6	46,420	47.8
Sheffield	556,521	57,044	473,313	85.0	29,678	52.0	83,208	15.0	27,366	48.0
Slough	158,500	46,661	88,806	56.0	24,252	52.0	69,694	44.0	22,409	48.0
Barking and Dagenham	218,866	53,389	128,483	58.7	27,131	50.8	90,383	41.3	26,258	49.2

3.4.3 NON-UK BORN MUSLIMS' COUNTRY/REGION OF BIRTH



Of the Non-UK Born Muslim population of England and Wales, the greater proportion are born in Pakistan (579,375 – 30.6%) and Bangladesh (253,028 – 13.4%), and the region designated in the Census as 'Other Europe' (262,682 – 13.9%). The number of Iraq and Afghanistan-born respondents to the 2021 Census was 89,934 and 85,693 respectively. The population of North African-born persons was 57,236.

Observations

- There is a generational shift, with over 50% of the Muslim population now UK Born.
- A proportion of the Non-UK Born Muslims would be those joining family already in the UK. As noted earlier, other reasons for settlement include climate change and conflict.

The three most common non-UK countries of birth for usual residents in 2021 were the same as in 2011: India, which has increased to 920,000 (1.5% of the population in England and Wales), up from 694,000 in 2011; Poland, which has increased to 743,000 (1.2%), up from 579,000 in 2011; Pakistan, which has increased to 624,000 (1.0%), up from 482,000 in 2011.

Office of National Statistics, International migration, including country of birth, passports held and year of arrival, Census 2021 data, 2 November 2023.

3.5 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

3.5.1 POPULATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS (REGIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICTS)

The highest level of administrative boundary is the region – 12 in the United Kingdom including Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Within a region there are local authority districts (LADs), or councils in Scotland. In England and Wales, a LAD comprises a number of wards – usually around 20–25.

POPULATION BY REGION

There is a Muslim population in each region, with 61.4% residing in London, the West Midlands and the North West of England.

S3.T33: Overall & Muslim population – Regions



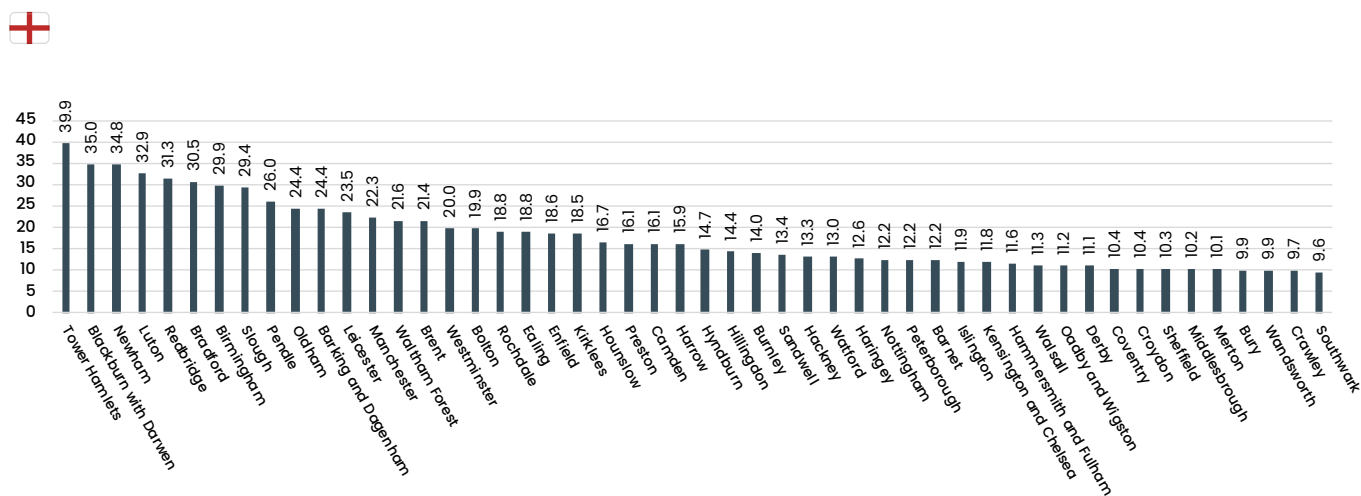
Region	Whole Population	Muslim Population	Muslim as % of All Population	Muslims as % of Overall Muslim Population
	Number	Number	%	%
London	8,799,728	1,318,754	15.0	33.0
West Midlands	5,950,756	569,963	9.6	14.3
North West	7,417,397	563,105	7.6	14.1
Yorkshire and The Humber	5,480,774	442,533	8.1	11.1
South East	9,278,068	309,067	3.3	7.7
East of England	6,335,072	234,744	3.7	5.9
East Midlands	4,880,054	210,766	4.3	5.3
South West	5,701,186	80,152	1.4	2.0
North East	2,647,012	72,102	2.7	1.8
England	56,490,047	3,801,186	6.7	95.1
Wales	3,107,494	66,947	2.2	1.7
Scotland	5,439,847	119,872	2.2	3.0
Northern Ireland	1,903,188	10,870	0.6	0.3
Total – United Kingdom	66,940,576	3,998,875	6.0	100.0

LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICTS (ENGLAND & WALES) AND SCOTTISH COUNCILS

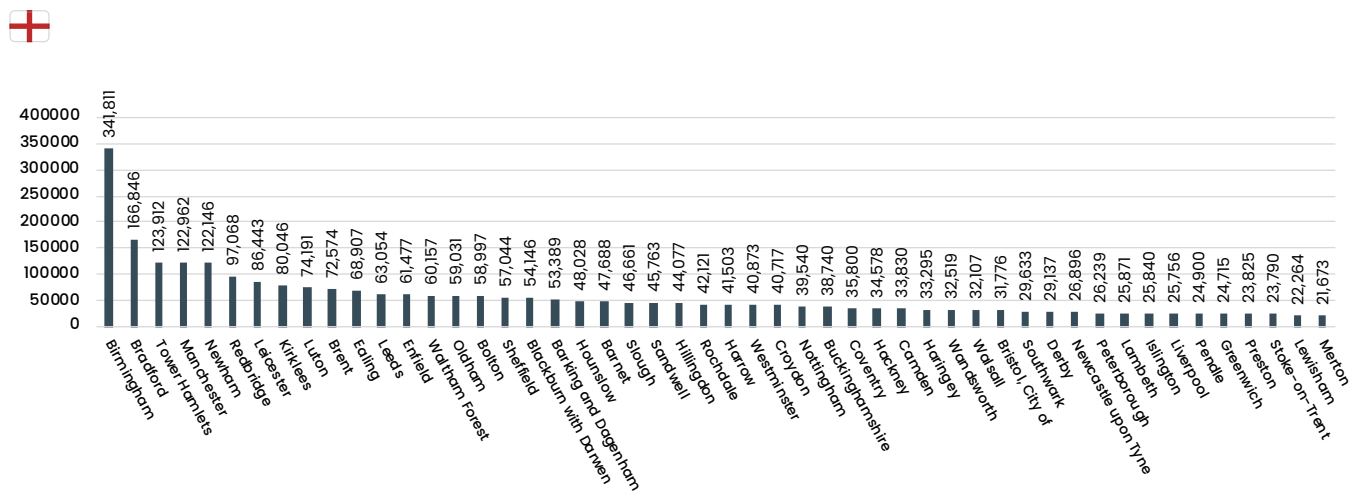
Local Authority Districts (England & Wales)

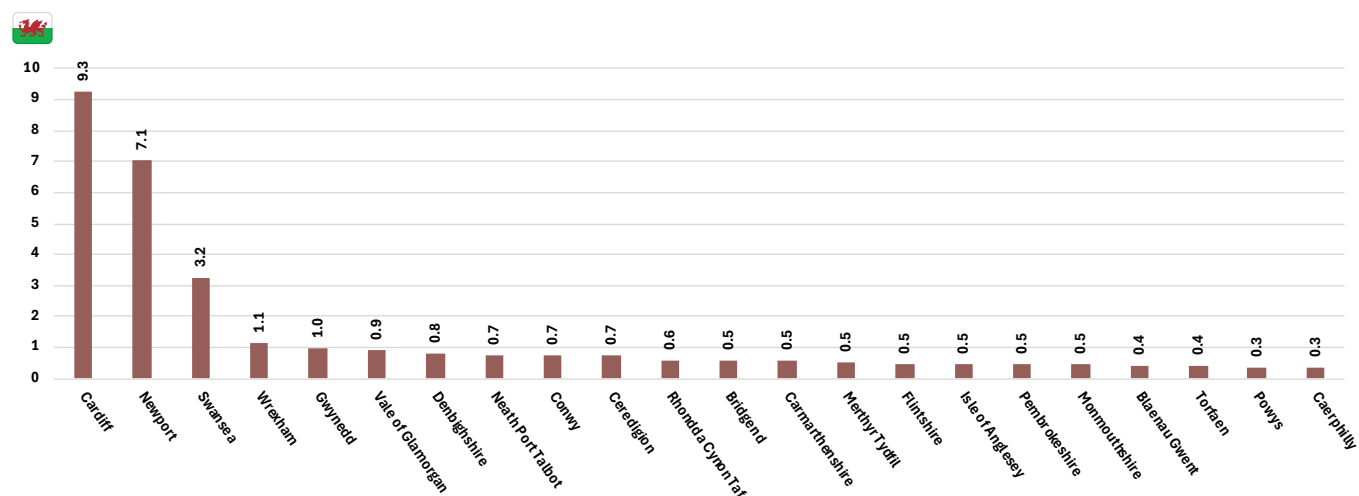
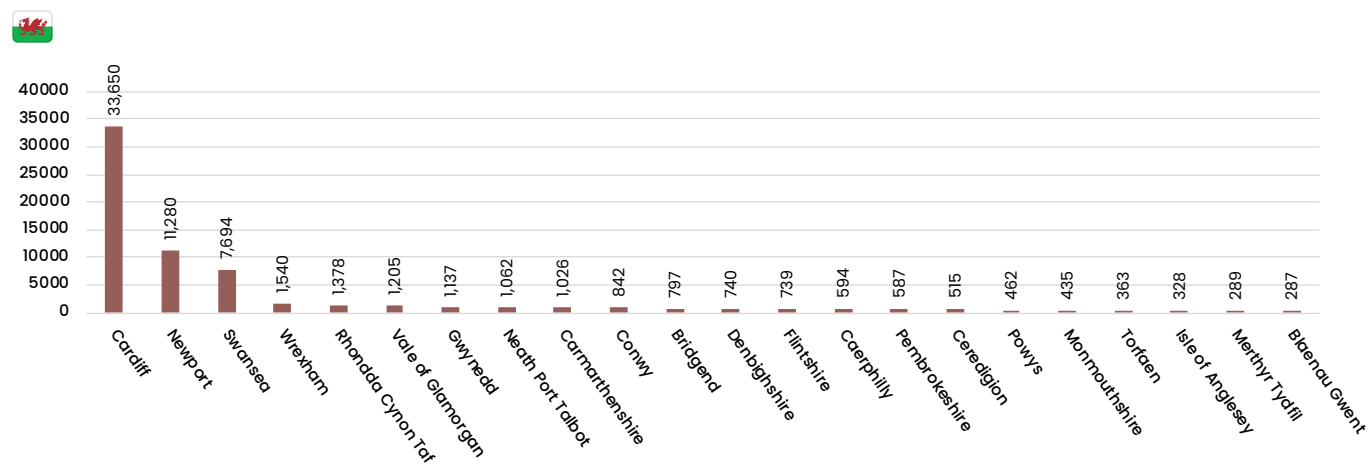
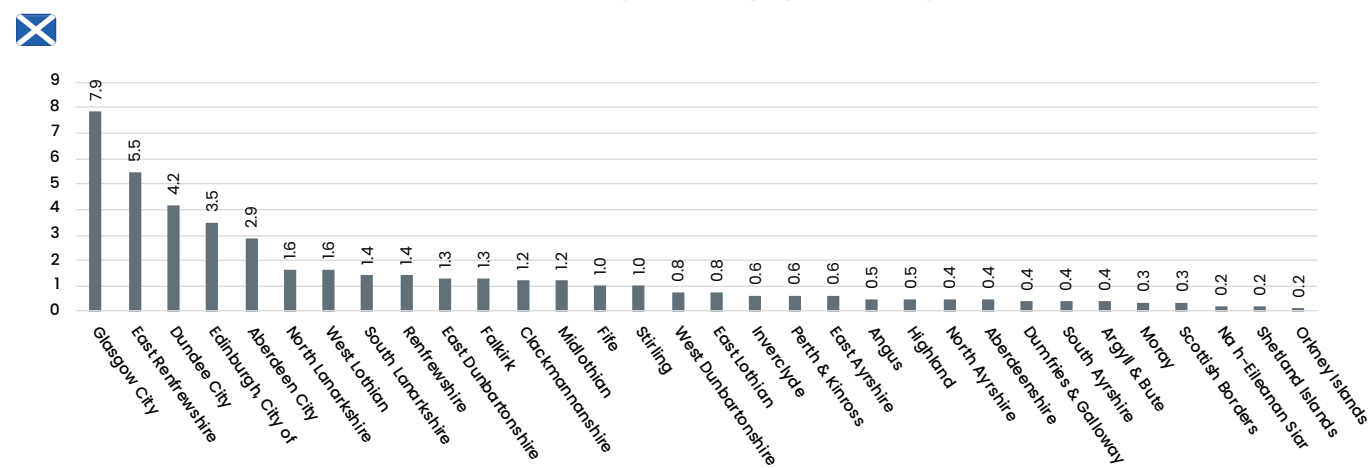
There are 330 Local Authority Districts (LADs) in England and Wales, (population of a LAD ~200,000–300,000). There are about 50 local authority districts (LADs) with a Muslim population of 9.5% or more.

S3.F22: LADs by Muslim population by % (top 50) – E

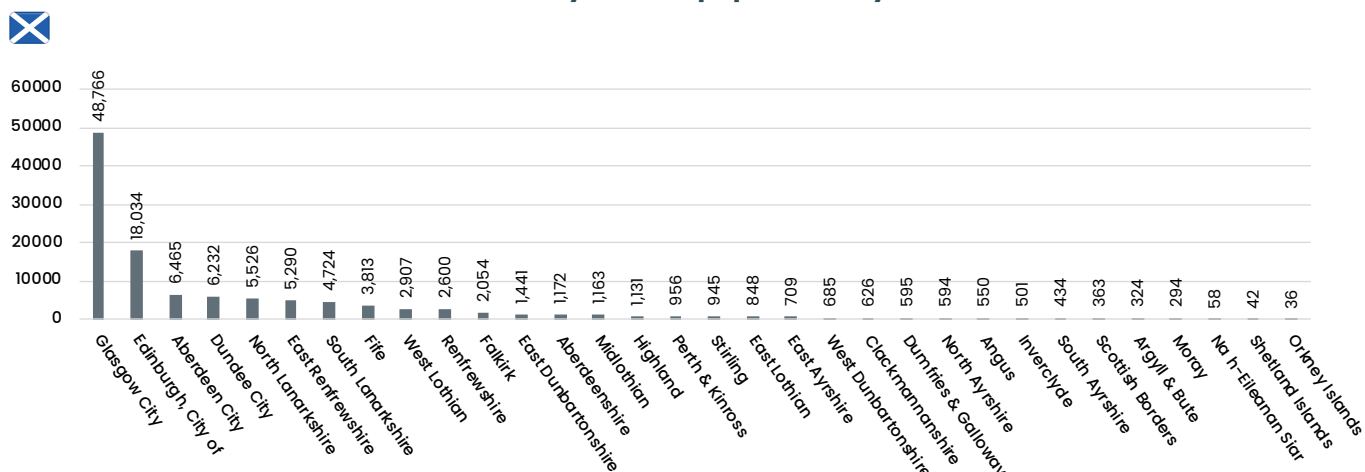


S3.F23: LADs by Muslim population by number (top 50) – E

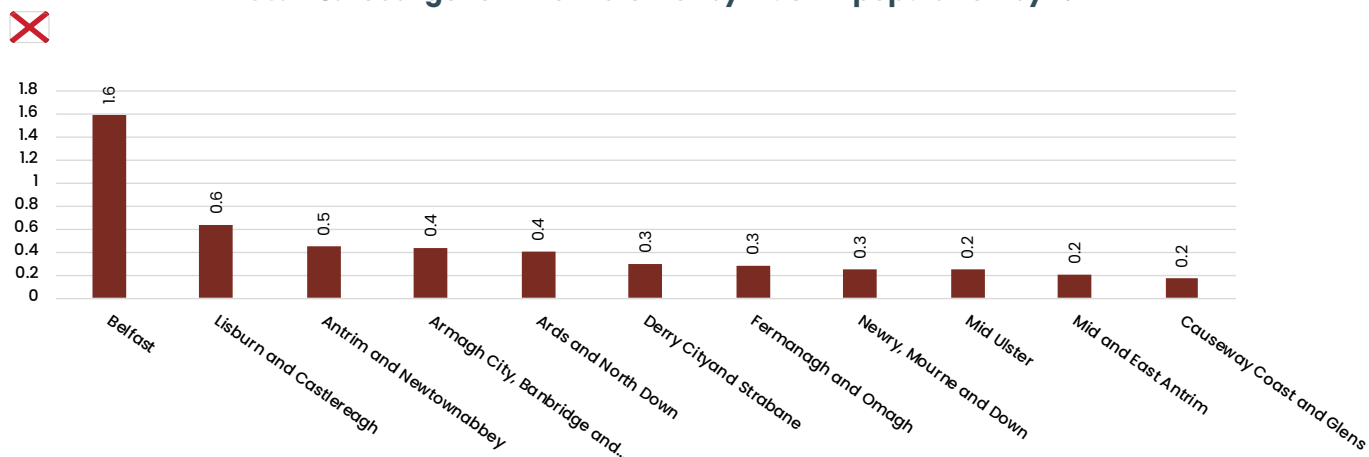


S3.F24: LADs by Muslim population by % – W**S3.F25: LADs by Muslim population by number – W****S3.F26: Councils by Muslim population by % – S**

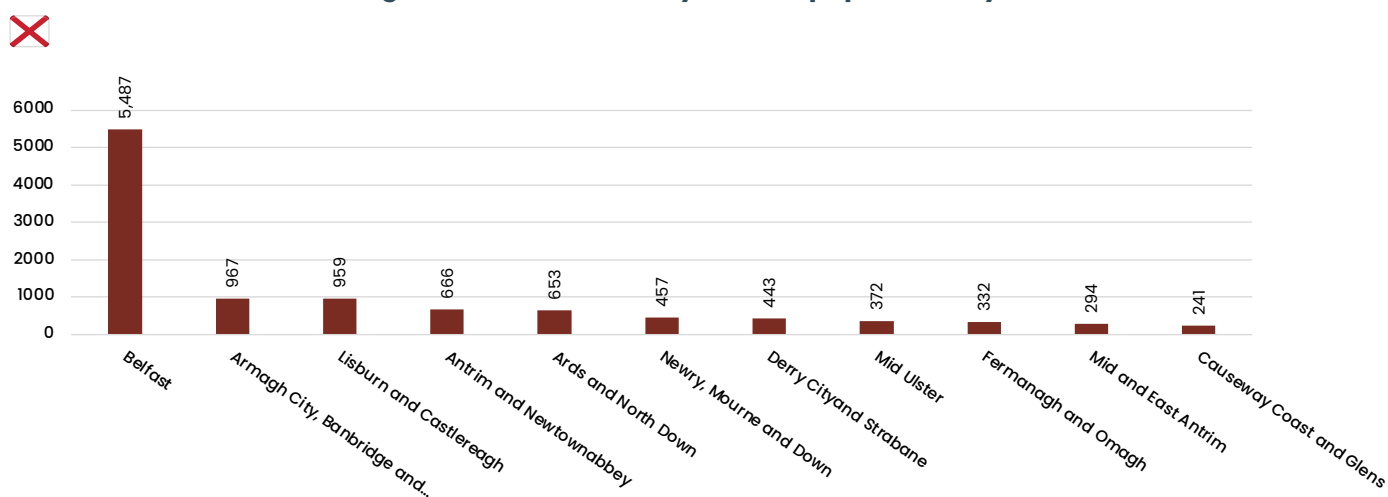
S3.F27: Councils by Muslim population by number – S



S3.F28: Local government district by Muslim population by % – NI



S3.F29: Local government district by Muslim population by number – NI



3.5.2 POPULATION FOR SELECTED WARDS AND CITIES

Of the approximately 6,876 wards (population of a ward ~ 15,000) in England, there were 19 in 2021 where the Muslim population was 70% or more; of these, 12 were in Birmingham and Blackburn with Darwen inner city wards. In Wales there are approximately 762 wards of which, in 2021, 12 wards had Muslim population of over 10%.

During the 2022 Census in Scotland, 5 Wards out of 4,615 had a Muslim population of over 10%. In Northern Ireland none of the 80 District Electoral Areas had a Muslim population of over 5%.

S3.T34: Wards with Muslim population > 70% – E



Local Authority Districts	Ward 2022 Name	Total Population	Muslim Population	
		Number	Number	%
Birmingham	Small Heath	21,971	18,862	85.8
Birmingham	Alum Rock	28,018	23,448	83.7
Blackburn with Darwen	Bastwell & Daisyfield	9,016	7,538	83.6
Blackburn with Darwen	Shear Brow & Corporation Park	9,360	7,774	83.1
Birmingham	Bordesley Green	12,986	10,412	80.2
Bradford	Toller	20,849	16,703	80.1
Birmingham	Sparkhill	21,462	16,991	79.2
Bradford	Bradford Moor	21,793	16,907	77.6
Birmingham	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	27,335	21,171	77.5
Bradford	Manningham	20,545	15,905	77.4
Birmingham	Heartlands	13,393	10,315	77.0
Burnley	Daneshouse with Stoneyholme	7,893	5,925	75.1
Birmingham	Ward End	13,713	10,229	74.6
Birmingham	Aston	24,445	17,915	73.3
Birmingham	Lozells	12,118	8,875	73.2
Blackburn with Darwen	Audley & Queen's Park	10,900	7,935	72.8
Rochdale	Milkstone & Deepdish	12,211	8,840	72.4
Leicester	Wycliffe	15,780	11,399	72.2
Oldham	Werneth	14,830	10,667	71.9


S3.T35: Wards with Muslim population > 10% – W

Local Authority Districts	Ward 2022 Name	Total Population	Muslim Population	
		Number	Number	%
Newport	Pillgwenlly	8,116	2,699	33.3
Newport	Victoria (Newport)	9,147	2,979	32.6
Cardiff	Grangetown (Cardiff)	20,819	5,950	28.6
Cardiff	Butetown	12,124	2,874	23.7
Cardiff	Riverside (Cardiff)	13,754	3,115	22.6
Cardiff	Adamsdown	11,609	2,031	17.5
Cardiff	Plasnewydd	18,277	2,619	14.3
Swansea	Castle (Swansea)	13,192	1,713	13.0
Cardiff	Splott	14,142	1,828	12.9
Cardiff	Cyncoed	11,394	1,353	11.9
Newport	Stow Hill	6,496	670	10.3
Cardiff	Penylan	12,910	1,314	10.2


S3.T36: Wards with Muslim population > 10% – S

Local Authority Districts	Ward 2022 Name	Total Population	Muslim Population	
		Number	Number	%
Glasgow City Council	Pollokshields	27,344	6,533	23.9
Glasgow City Council	Southside Central	27,716	6,214	22.4
Glasgow City Council	Greater Pollok	32,890	4,039	12.3
Glasgow City Council	Newlands/Auldburn	24,392	2,697	11.1
Glasgow City Council	Govan	27,410	2,876	10.5

The Muslim population is urban-based, with the population increases mainly at the city level. Towns and cities with marked increases in their Muslim population include Dundee and Leeds, where the Muslim population has increased by 60.8% (forming 4.2% of the total population) and 54.7% (forming 7.8% of the total population) respectively between 2011 and 2021.

S3.T37: Muslim population increase, 2011 & 2021 – select cities

City	All		Muslims				Muslim Population Change	
	2011	2021	2011	%	2021	%	2011–2021	%
England								
London	8,173,941	8,799,728	1,012,823	12.4	1,318,754	15.0	305,931	30.2
Birmingham	1,073,045	1,144,917	234,411	21.8	341,811	29.9	107,400	45.8
Bradford	522,452	546,411	129,041	24.7	166,846	30.5	37,805	29.3
Manchester	503,127	551,938	79,496	15.8	122,962	22.3	43,466	54.7
Leicester	329,839	368,574	61,440	18.6	86,443	23.5	25,003	40.7
Luton	203,201	225,260	49,991	24.6	74,191	32.9	24,200	48.4
Sheffield	552,698	556,521	42,801	7.7	57,040	10.2	14,239	33.3
Leeds	751,485	811,953	40,772	5.4	63,054	7.8	22,282	54.7
Wales								
Cardiff	346,090	362,311	23,656	6.8	33,650	9.3	9,994	42.2
Scotland*								
Glasgow	593,245	620,756	32,117	5.4	48,766	7.9	16,649	51.8
Edinburgh	476,626	514,543	12,434	2.6	18,034	3.5	5,600	45.0
Aberdeen	222,793	224,021	4,293	1.9	6,465	2.9	2,172	50.6
Dundee	147,268	148,697	3,875	2.6	6,232	4.2	2,357	60.8
Northern Ireland								
Belfast	280,962	345,430	3,500	1.2	5,489	1.6	1,989	56.8

2011 Muslim population of Belfast is an estimate.

[...] Indian and Pakistani people were almost twice as likely to express strong local belonging compared to White British people, and Bangladeshi respondents were almost three times as likely to do so [during COVID-19].

Harrison, J., Finney, N., Haycox, H., & Hill, E. "6: Housing, place and community". In Racism and Ethnic Inequality in a Time of Crisis. Bristol, UK: Policy Press, 2023.

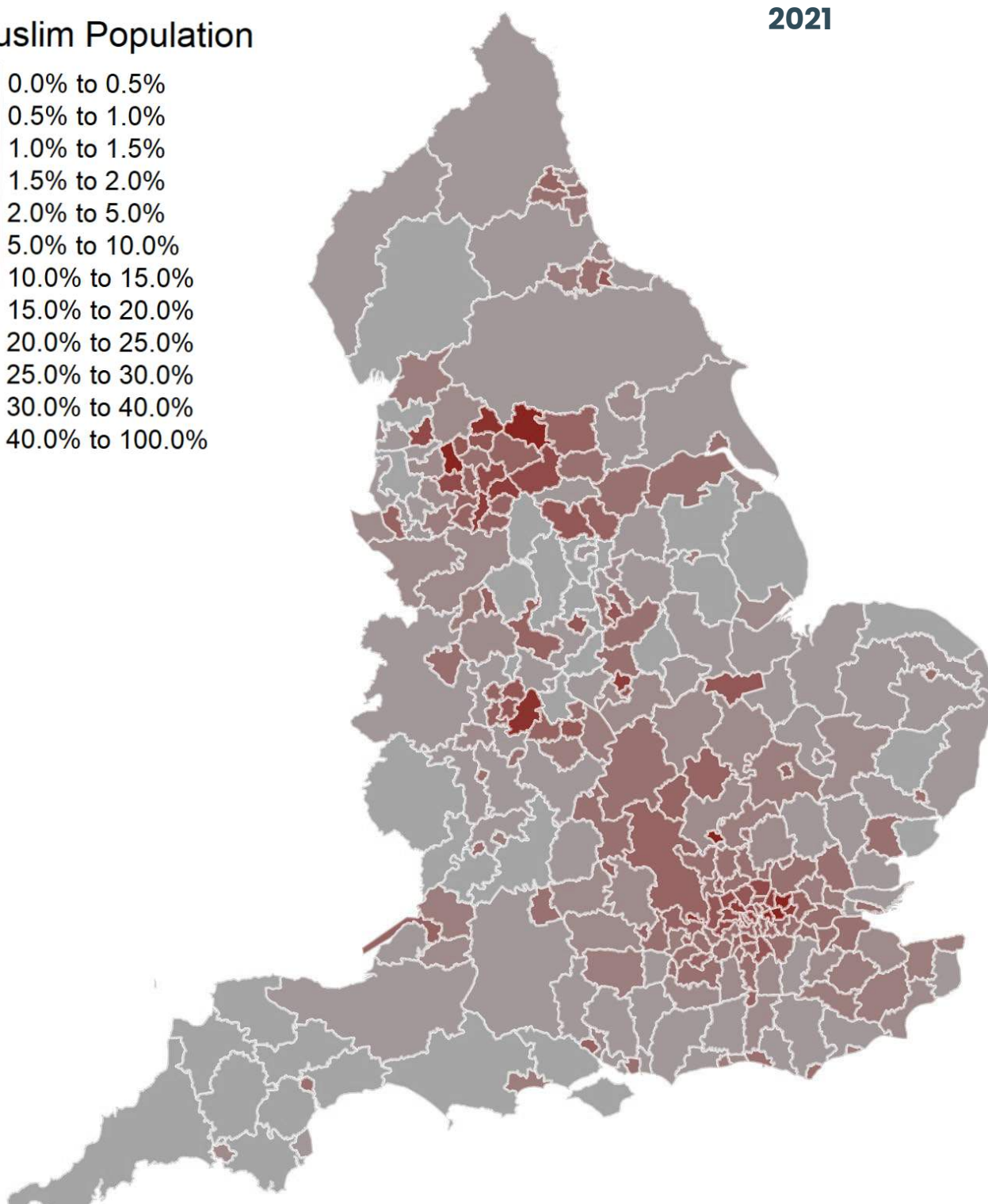
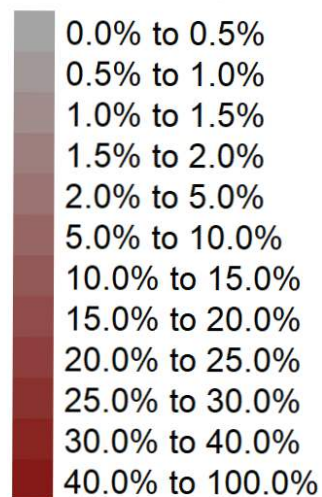
3.5.3 MAPS



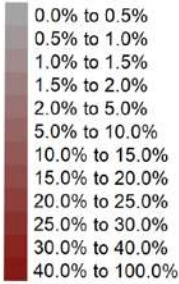
S3.F30: Maps of Muslim population, 2021, 2011, 2001 - England

Muslim Population

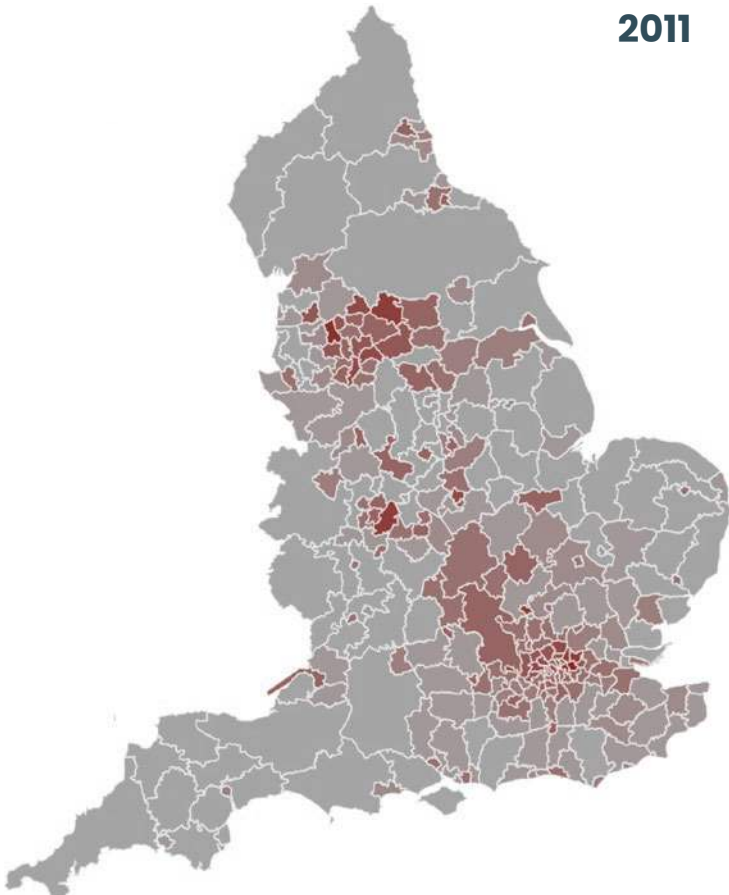
2021



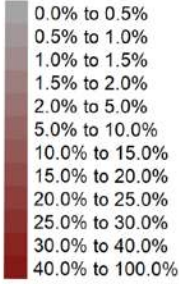
Muslim Population



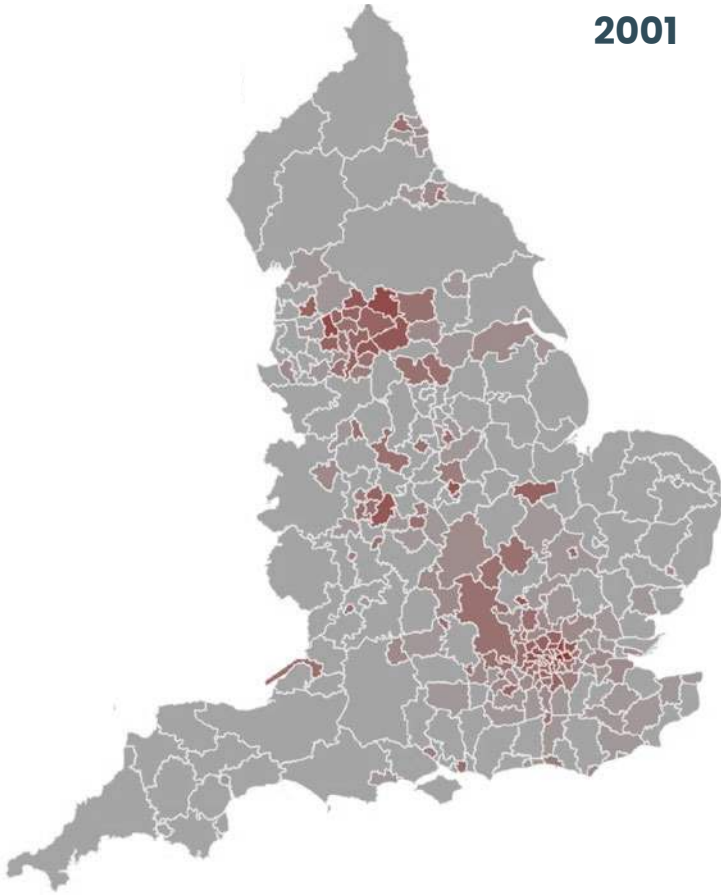
2011

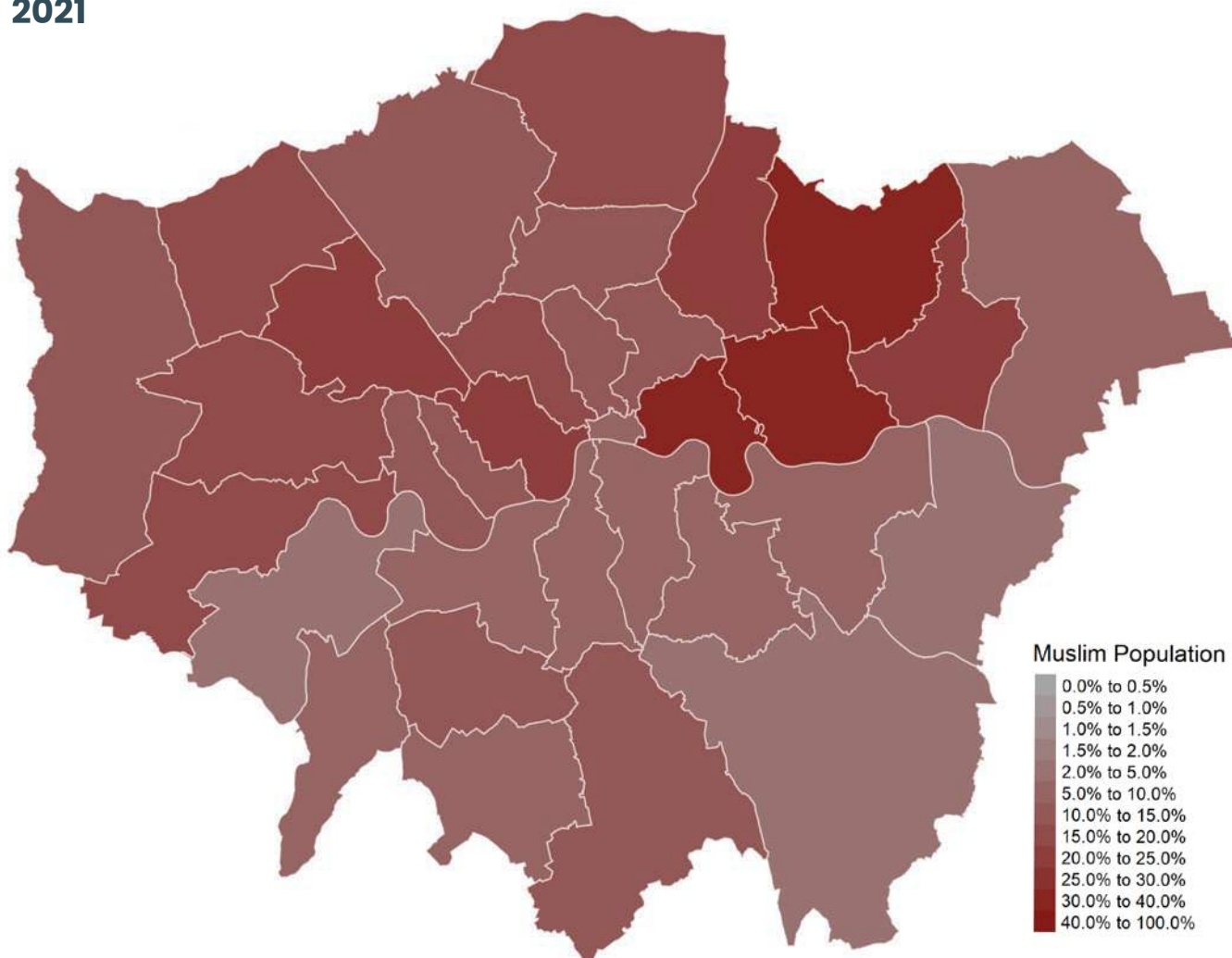


Muslim Population

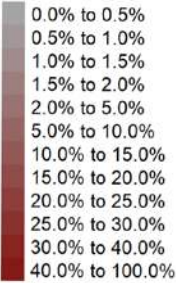


2001

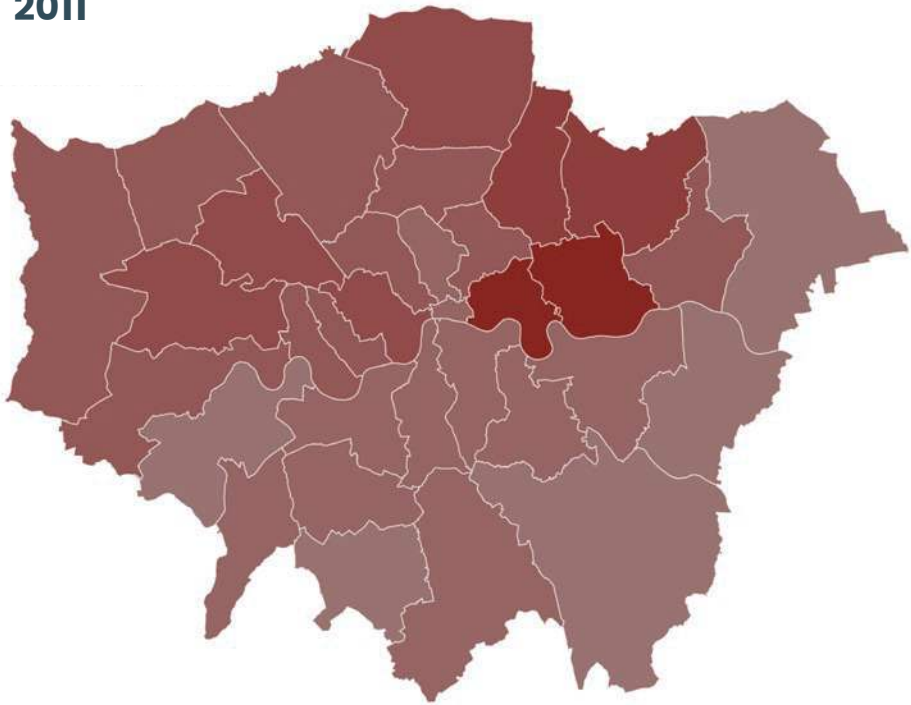


S3.F31: Maps of Muslim population, 2021, 2011, 2001 – London**2021**

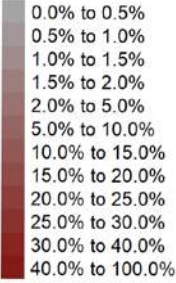
Muslim Population



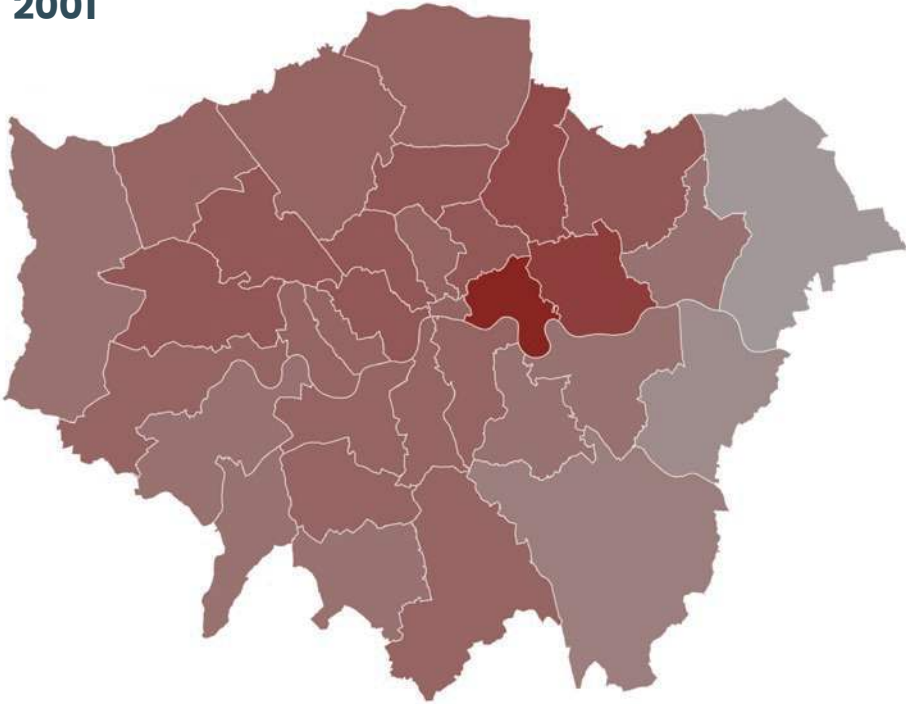
2011

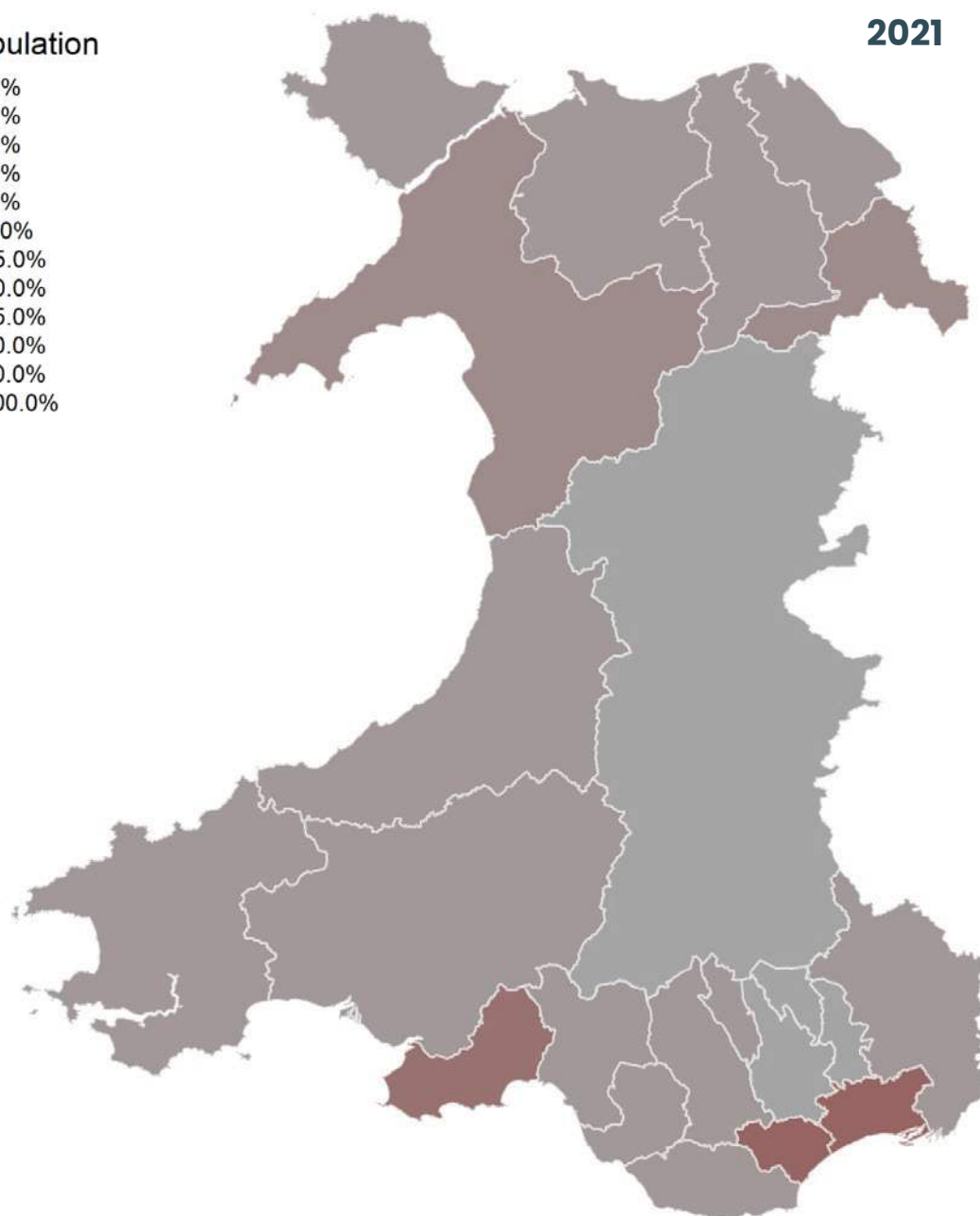
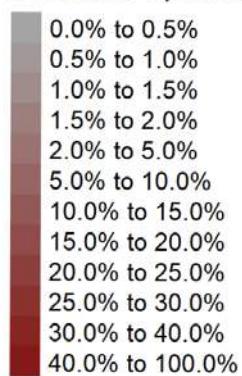


Muslim Population

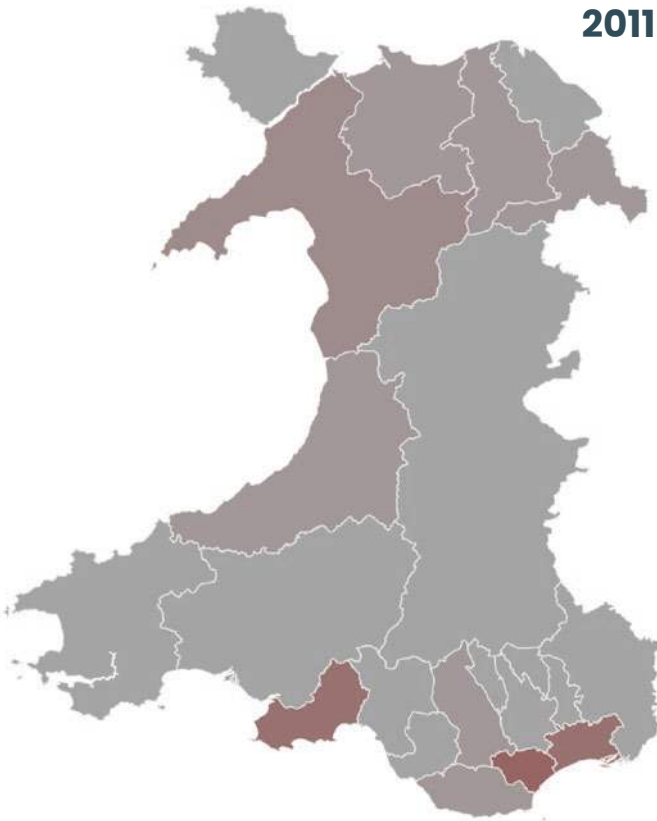
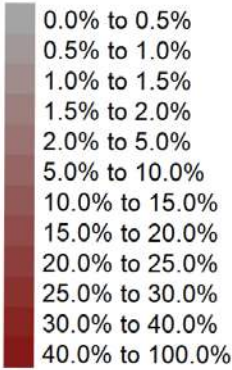


2001

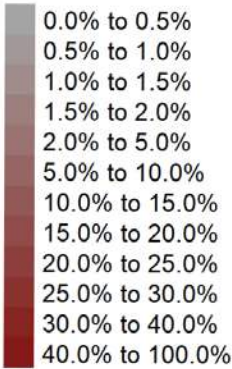


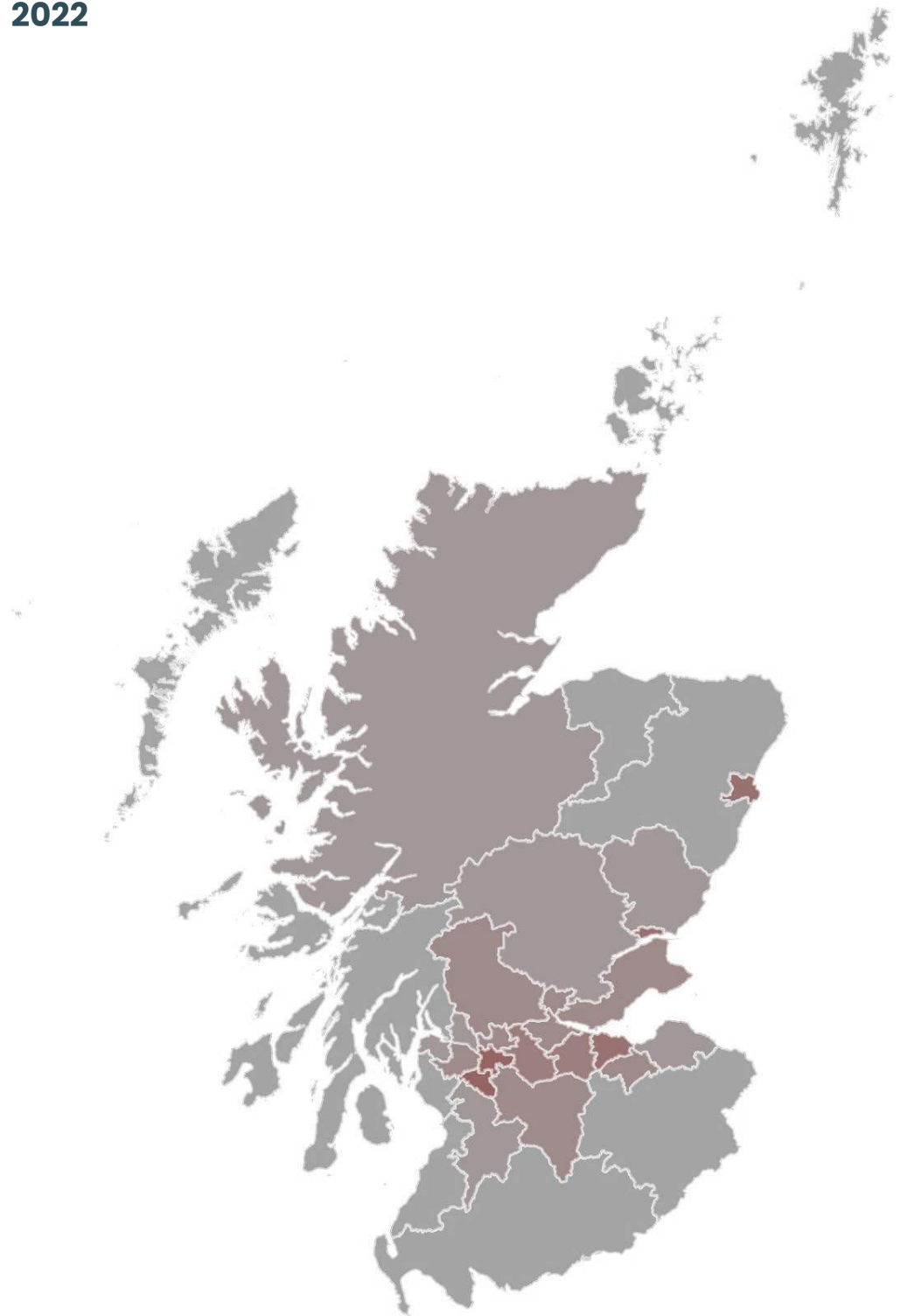
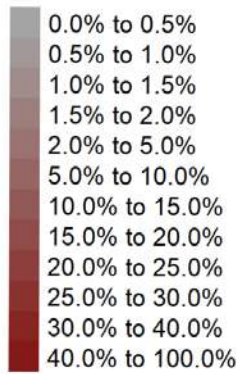
**S3.F32: Maps of Muslim population, 2021, 2011, 2001 – Wales****Muslim Population****2021**

Muslim Population

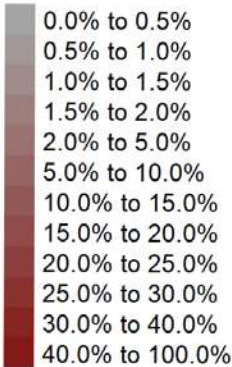


Muslim Population



**S3.F33: Maps of Muslim population, 2022, 2011, 2001 – Scotland****Muslim Population 2022**

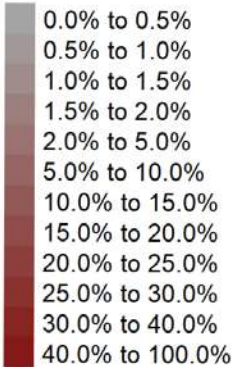
Muslim Population



2011



Muslim Population



2001





S3.F34: Map of Muslim population, 2021 – Northern Ireland

2021



Observations

- The Muslim presence is part of the landscape of the United Kingdom, with settlements large and small. The MCB's report on the 2011 Census (*British Muslims in Numbers*) noted, "Muslims are part of the social fabric of Britain's plural society and are to be found from Land's End to Stornoway." This comment holds, but with more up-to-date information after the 2021 Census: Stornoway is a town on the Isle of Lewis in the Scottish council of Na h-Eileanan an Iar, which had 36 Muslim residents on Census day. The Muslim connection is however an old one, thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit.

By the mid-1930s a couple of Muslim pedlars had reached the Isles of Lewis and Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Not many more of their friends joined them until the 1950s when slowly their numbers began to rise and by the late 1960s, about 10 to 15 Muslim families had settled in Stornoway. They had no place for performing their prayers in congregation and they performed their daily prayers either at their business places or their homes. However, they had succeeded in acquiring a small plot of land in a Stornoway cemetery for the burial of their dead. With their children growing up they felt the need for a place for offering their prayers and for religious education [...]

In the late twentieth and early twenty first century some Bangladeshi Muslim entrepreneurs had opened restaurants in various towns of the island and settled in Stornoway [...]

Bashir Maan. Muslims in Scotland, Argyll Publishing, 2014.

3.6 GEOGRAPHICAL DISPERSAL

3.6.1 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD AND DISPERSAL – ENGLAND AND WALES

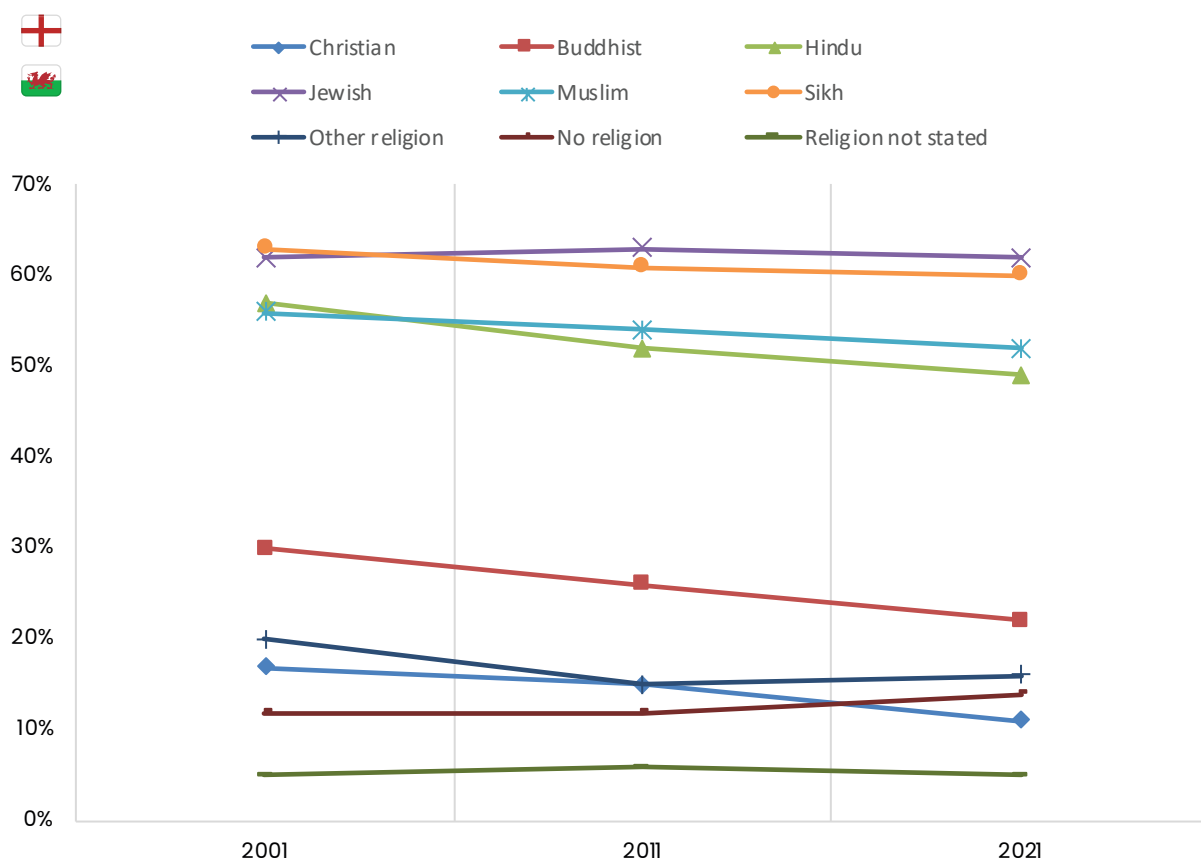
The increase in population and geographical spread is accompanied with dispersal. In 2011, the University of Manchester/Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported the use of the 'index of dissimilarity' that measures the spread of one group compared to the rest of the population¹. On a scale of 0 to 100, the lower this index, the greater the level of dispersion (i.e. the lower the level of self-segregation). In 2021, Muslims were more dispersed in comparison with the Jewish and Sikh faith groups. This also applies in previous decades.

S3.T38: LAD-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – E&W

 	Religion	Index of Dissimilarity		
		2001	2011	2021
	Christian	17%	15%	11%
	Buddhist	30%	26%	22%
	Hindu	57%	52%	49%
	Jewish	62%	63%	62%
	Muslim	56%	54%	52%
	Sikh	63%	61%	60%
	Other religion	20%	15%	16%
	No religion	12%	12%	14%
	Religion not stated	5%	6%	5%

For the Muslim population, the index value has reduced from 56% to 52% between 2001 and 2021, indicating a trend of spreading out; therefore mixing and diversity has accelerated. All Minority Faiths have dispersed over the 20 years.

¹ Ludi Simpson, More segregation or more mixing?, University of Manchester, Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research 2012

S3.F35: LAD-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – E&W

3.6.2 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD AND DISPERSAL – REGIONS



S3.T39a: LAD-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – Regions

Religion	North East			North West			Yorkshire and The Humber			East Midlands			West Midlands		
	Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity		
	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021
Muslim	59%	59%	58%	70%	68%	65%	71%	69%	67%	69%	68%	65%	70%	66%	62%
Christian	14%	13%	12%	20%	20%	19%	20%	19%	16%	21%	19%	15%	22%	20%	17%
Buddhist	34%	32%	23%	29%	26%	21%	32%	27%	22%	33%	27%	20%	32%	26%	23%
Hindu	52%	49%	50%	52%	47%	42%	48%	46%	42%	72%	68%	65%	54%	50%	46%
Jewish	71%	69%	69%	72%	73%	72%	67%	62%	57%	44%	44%	35%	49%	46%	41%
Sikh	41%	39%	34%	59%	56%	50%	59%	56%	53%	66%	63%	59%	59%	56%	56%
Other religion	25%	18%	15%	25%	18%	17%	21%	16%	16%	23%	17%	15%	21%	24%	20%
No religion	13%	11%	10%	15%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	15%	14%	14%	11%	13%	16%
Religion not stated	10%	5%	7%	10%	5%	7%	8%	4%	6%	9%	5%	7%	8%	5%	6%



S3.T39b: LAD-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – Regions

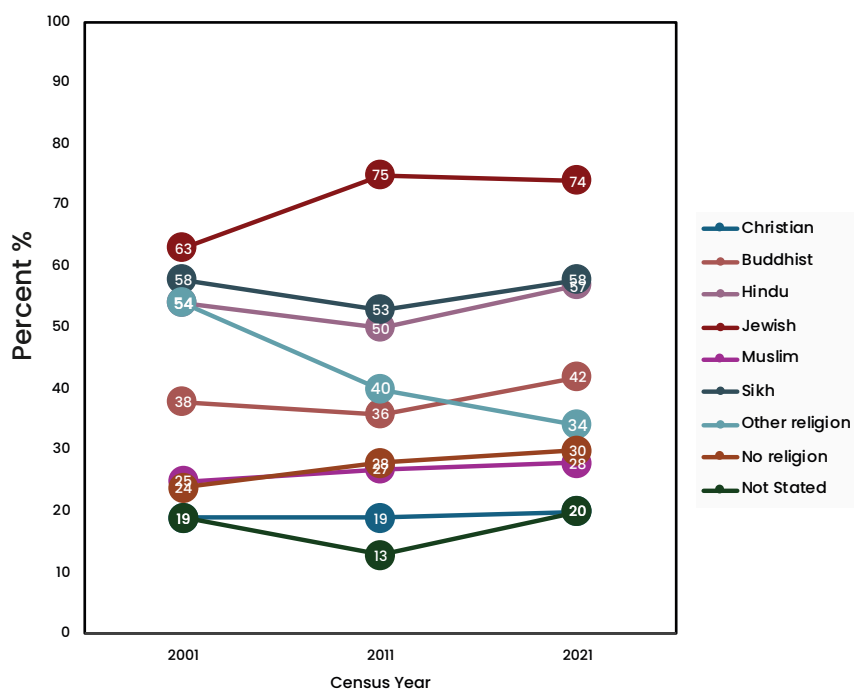
Religion	East of England			London			South East			South West			Wales		
	Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity			Index of Dissimilarity		
	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021	2001	2011	2021
Muslim	58%	57%	53%	36%	34%	32%	50%	51%	47%	50%	54%	51%	62%	62%	61%
Christian	13%	12%	10%	19%	18%	14%	13%	13%	11%	12%	12%	11%	13%	14%	13%
Buddhist	27%	24%	22%	24%	19%	18%	28%	28%	27%	29%	25%	22%	32%	26%	23%
Hindu	47%	46%	44%	47%	47%	44%	43%	45%	45%	52%	49%	48%	54%	51%	48%
Jewish	60%	62%	62%	62%	65%	64%	38%	35%	33%	44%	40%	33%	54%	49%	43%
Sikh	60%	58%	52%	62%	61%	60%	67%	64%	62%	63%	60%	54%	61%	53%	47%
Other religion	19%	18%	19%	26%	23%	27%	21%	17%	18%	20%	17%	16%	26%	21%	18%
No religion	11%	11%	12%	16%	19%	23%	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%	9%	13%	14%	12%
Religion not stated	7%	5%	6%	9%	12%	8%	7%	5%	6%	7%	5%	6%	9%	6%	7%

For the Muslim population, the highest level of dispersal between 2001 and 2021 (i.e. less self-segregation) has been in the West Midlands region. In London, the Muslim population is far more dispersed in comparison to the Hindu, Jewish and Sikh faiths.

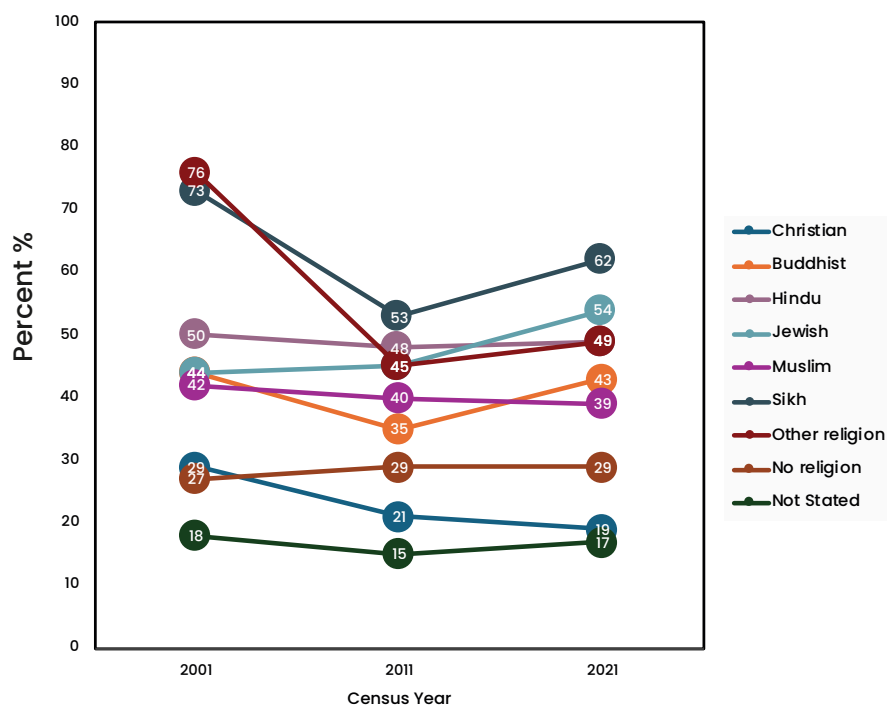
Note:
100% means complete separation
0% means completely evenly spread

3.6.3 GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD AND DISPERSAL – SELECT LADs

S3.F36: Ward-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – London Borough of Hackney



S3.F37: Ward-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – London Borough of Tower Hamlets

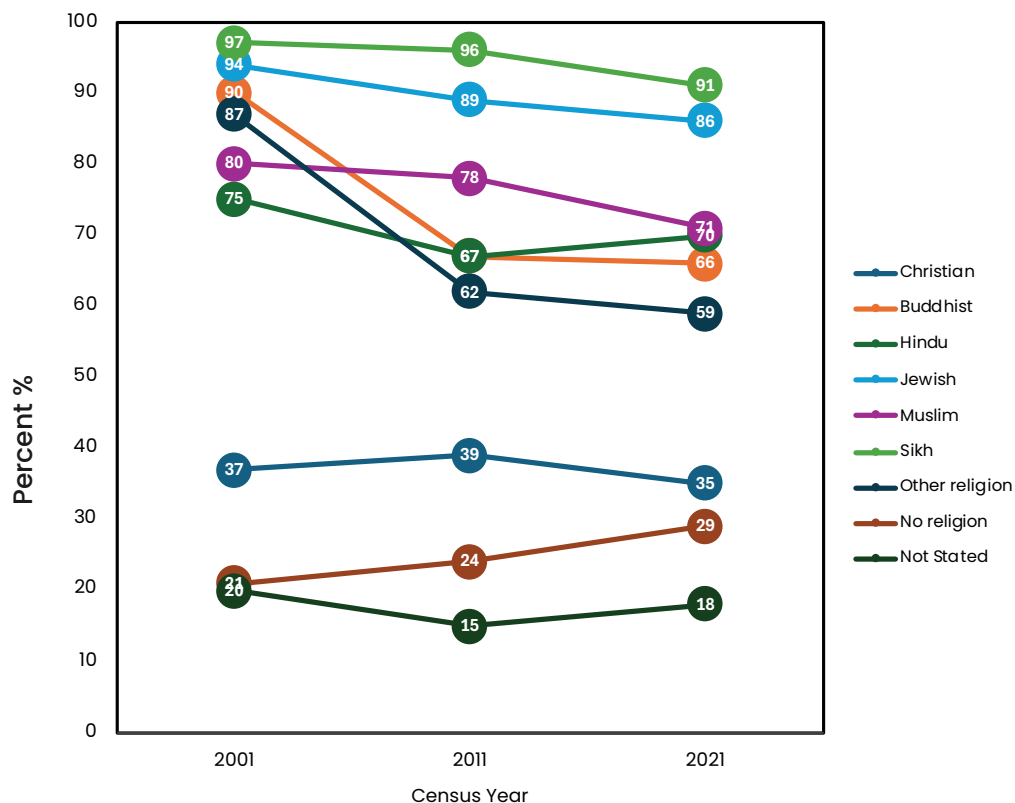


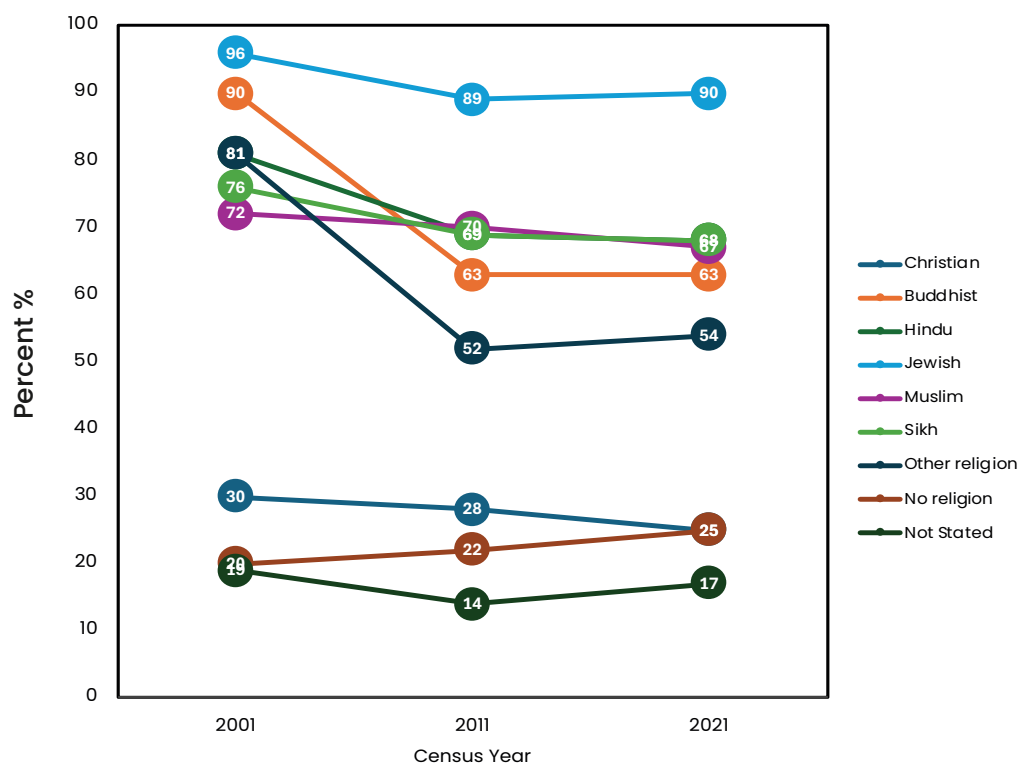
Comparing the two London boroughs of Hackney and Tower Hamlets, the Muslim population is more dispersed in the former (Index values of 28 and 39 respectively – the lower the index value, the greater the dispersal). For both Sikh and Jewish populations, there is an increased concentration in Tower Hamlets between 2011 and 2021, possibly due to outward migration. In Hackney, the two least dispersed faith communities are Jews and Sikhs.

Over two decades on, and despite evidence of increasing ethnic diversification in neighbourhoods across the UK [...] discursive frames of 'segregation' continue to problematise the spatial clustering of racially minoritised residents, obscuring the 'shared experiences of disadvantage, discrimination, racism and exclusion [that] have acted to create and reinforce resilient social bonds within the neighbourhood' [...]. Such policy discourses tend to obscure residents' exposure to, and experiences of, structural racism [...] and pose the construction of 'mixed communities' via social interactions and urban development as the remedy to perceived 'segregation' [...]

Sharon Leahy, Nissa Finney, Emma Hill, Hannah Haycox, James Rhodes and N Meer. 'Housing governance and racialisation: 'inclusivity' in housing access and experience'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 50(18), 4545–4562, 2024.

S3.F38: Ward-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – Oldham



S3.F39: Ward-based Index of Dissimilarity by Religion – Kirklees

Comparing the two local authorities in the north west – Oldham and Kirklees – the reduction in the index for the Muslim population points to a trend of greater dispersal from 2001 to 2022. The Muslim population in Oldham is slightly less dispersed than Kirklees (index values 71 and 69 respectively). Least dispersed (most segregated) in both LADs are the Jewish and Sikh faith communities.

Observations

- The charge of ‘ghettoisation’ is not borne out by analysis of dispersal at the regional and local authority levels. The stereotype of self-segregating communities must be challenged.

For years, Birmingham has been a favourite target of those eager to prove that diversity does not work. When politicians need a backdrop for their moral panic, they come here [...] Yes, it has challenges, inequality, cuts, and neglect. However, these are failures of politics not people. For this is a city that proves multi-culturalism works not perfectly but practically.

Hasan Patel. Birmingham Isn't Broken — Hard-Right Britain Is, eaworldview.com, 23 October 2025.

| PART II

4. FOCUS ON YOUTH

- 4.1 Muslim Population in Younger Age Bands
- 4.2 Youth Population in Select Areas

4.1 MUSLIM POPULATION IN YOUNGER AGE BANDS

While Muslims form 6.0% of the overall population of United Kingdom, 10.0% of all school-age children (5 to 15 age band) are Muslim. The comparable figure is 6.7% and 11.2%, England; 2.2% and 3.7%, Wales; 2.2% and 4.0%, Scotland and 0.6% and 0.9%, Northern Ireland.

At the last Census, almost 40% of the Muslims are in the age band 25 to 49 years and only 5% of the Muslims are aged 65 and over.



S4.T1: Age profile, Muslim – UK

Age Group	Overall Population	Muslim Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Muslim Population
	Number	Number	%	%
0 to 4	3,594,261	374,078	10.4	9.4
5 to 15	8,716,596	869,717	10.0	21.7
16 to 24	7,102,170	590,136	8.3	14.8
25 to 49	21,894,176	1,545,772	7.1	38.7
50 to 64	13,152,932	427,475	3.3	10.7
65 and over	12,480,436	191,706	1.5	4.8
All Ages	66,940,575	3,998,885	6.0	100.0



S4.T2: Age profile, Muslim – E

Age Group	Overall Population	Muslim Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Muslim Population
	Number	Number	%	%
0 to 4	3,076,950	355,317	11.5	9.3
5 to 15	7,406,141	827,079	11.2	21.8
16 to 24	5,989,233	561,358	9.4	14.8
25 to 49	18,646,302	1,466,311	7.9	38.6
50 to 64	10,970,121	407,312	3.7	10.7
65 and over	10,401,303	183,810	1.8	4.8
All Ages	56,490,050	3,801,187	6.7	100.0

**S4.T3: Age profile, Muslim – W**

Age Group	Overall Population	Muslim Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Muslim Population
	Number	Number	%	%
0 to 4	155,086	6,437	4.2	9.6
5 to 15	392,991	14,579	3.7	21.8
16 to 24	329,076	10,379	3.2	15.5
25 to 49	930,333	26,401	2.8	39.4
50 to 64	637,958	6,458	1.0	9.6
65 and over	662,044	2,694	0.4	4.0
All Ages	3,107,488	66,948	2.2	100.0

**S4.T4: Age profile, Muslim – S**

Age Group	Overall Population	Muslim Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Muslim Population
	Number	Number	%	%
0 to 4	248,405	11,228	4.5	9.4
5 to 15	642,844	25,675	4.0	21.4
16 to 24	582,483	17,020	2.9	14.2
25 to 49	1,703,936	48,286	2.8	40.3
50 to 64	1,171,558	12,706	1.1	10.6
65 and over	1,090,606	4,960	0.5	4.1
All Ages	5,439,842	119,872	2.2	100.0

Source: Census 2022

**S4.T5: Age profile, Muslim – NI**

Age Group	Overall Population	Muslim Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Population	Muslim as a % of Overall Muslim Population
	Number	Number	%	%
0 to 4	113,820	1,096	1.0	10.1
5 to 15	274,620	2,384	0.9	21.9
16 to 24	201,378	1,379	0.7	12.7
25 to 49	613,605	4,774	0.8	43.9
50 to 64	373,295	999	0.3	9.2
65 and over	326,483	242	0.1	2.2
All Ages	1,903,195	10,878	0.6	100.0

Ignoring mortality and migration, children in the age band 3 to 9 (Scotland 4 to 10) at Census 2021 (2022 Scotland) will be teenagers in 2031. There will be approximately 552,333 (13.8%) Muslim teenagers compared with 5,427,388 (8.1%) teenagers in the overall population. In 2031 one in ten teenagers in the United Kingdom will be a Muslim.



S4.T6: Age band 3–9 years, All Religions, Muslim – All genders – UK

Nation	All Genders					
	All Religions			Muslim		
	All ages	Age 3 to 9*		All ages	Age 3 to 9	
	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
England	56,490,050	4,621,695	8.2	3,801,189	524,440	13.8
Wales	3,107,494	241,692	7.8	66,944	9,606	14.3
Scotland	5,439,842	392,262	7.2	119,873	16,631	13.9
Northern Ireland	1,903,175	171,739	9.0	10,872	1,656	15.2
United Kingdom	66,940,561	5,427,388	8.1	3,998,878	552,333	13.8



S4.T7: Age band 3–9 years, All Religions, Muslim – Male – UK

Nation	Male					
	All Religions			Muslim		
	All ages	Age 3 to 9*		All ages	Age 3 to 9	
	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
England	27,656,341	2,365,753	8.6	1,925,641	267,635	13.9
Wales	1,521,003	123,577	8.1	35,122	4,903	14.0
Scotland	2,642,498	201,254	7.6	61,708	8,502	13.8
Northern Ireland	936,131	87,877	9.4	6,101	833	13.7
United Kingdom	32,755,973	2,778,461	8.5	2,028,572	281,873	13.9


S4.T8: Age band 3–9 years, All Religions, Muslim – Female – UK

Nation	Female					
	All Religions			Muslim		
	All ages	Age 3 to 9*		All ages	Age 3 to 9	
	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
England	28,833,709	2,255,942	7.8	1,875,548	256,805	13.7
Wales	1,586,491	118,115	7.4	31,822	4,703	14.8
Scotland	2,797,344	191,008	6.8	58,165	8,129	14.0
Northern Ireland	967,044	83,862	8.7	4,771	823	17.3
United Kingdom	34,184,588	2,648,927	7.7	1,970,306	270,460	13.7

4.2 YOUTH POPULATION IN SELECT AREAS

LONDON BOROUGHES & BIRMINGHAM'S WARD

As a result of settlement patterns, and even though there is evidence of less residential segregation at the local authority district level (see Section 3.6), the percentage of Muslim children of school age is very high in some inner-city areas. For example, in Tower Hamlets, which has 39.9% Muslim population overall, 69.9% of all children in the age band 5 to 15 are Muslim. Similar trends can be observed in other inner city London local authorities and other cities in England.


S4.T9: All Ages, age band 0–4, 5–15 years, Muslim – select London boroughs

Local Authority Districts	All Ages	Age 0–4			Ages 5–15		
	Muslims	All Religions	Muslims		All Religions	Muslims	
	%	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
Tower Hamlets	39.9	19,092	11,426	59.8	38,333	26,787	69.9
Newham	34.8	23,854	10,941	45.9	51,007	25,840	50.7
Redbridge	31.3	21,194	8,863	41.8	47,051	20,759	44.1
Waltham Forest	21.6	18,985	4,948	26.1	37,259	12,211	32.8
Brent	21.4	19,970	6,157	30.8	44,703	15,456	34.6
Westminster	20.0	8,501	2,491	29.3	18,266	6,754	37.0
Enfield	18.6	21,259	5,275	24.8	51,545	13,710	26.6
Ealing	18.8	21,514	5,912	27.5	50,228	14,347	28.6

In Birmingham 50% or more of school age children, in 21 wards, are Muslim.


S4.T10: Age band 0-2, 3-15 years, Muslim – Select wards, Birmingham

Ward Name (2022)	Age 15 years and under	Age 2 years and under			Age 3 to 15 years		
	Muslim	All Religions	Muslim		All Religions	Muslim	
	Number	Number	Number	%	Number	Number	%
Small Heath	5,586	953	860	90.2	5,233	4,726	90.3
Bordesley Green	3,463	622	533	85.7	3,331	2,930	88.0
Alum Rock	7,195	1,374	1,203	87.6	6,819	5,992	87.9
Heartlands	3,386	621	529	85.2	3,337	2,857	85.6
Sparkhill	4,887	1,003	842	83.9	4,728	4,045	85.6
Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	6,499	1,353	1,151	85.1	6,261	5,348	85.4
Ward End	3,355	629	485	77.1	3,450	2,870	83.2
Lozells	2,828	587	484	82.5	2,876	2,344	81.5
Aston	5,354	1,095	867	79.2	5,533	4,487	81.1
Balsall Heath West	2,214	542	395	72.9	2,360	1,819	77.1
Bordesley & Highgate	2,880	752	532	70.7	3,111	2,348	75.5
Yardley West & Stechford	2,751	663	432	65.2	3,194	2,319	72.6
Hall Green North	4,169	1,014	683	67.4	5,039	3,486	69.2
Newtown	2,624	681	461	67.7	3,205	2,163	67.5
Nechells	2,481	601	403	67.1	3,110	2,078	66.8
Bromford & Hodge Hill	4,032	962	654	68.0	5,075	3,378	66.6
Tyseley & Hay Mills	2,223	555	371	66.8	2,790	1,852	66.4
Birchfield	1,963	544	343	63.1	2,518	1,620	64.3
Handsworth	1,552	405	228	56.3	2,433	1,324	54.4
North Edgbaston	2,316	787	415	52.7	3,594	1,901	52.9
Moseley	2,026	718	364	50.7	3,229	1,662	51.5
Local Authority District – Birmingham	111,744	44,013	19,109	43.4	211,280	92,635	43.8

The demographic data means that young people will play an important part in our cityscapes and in the ability of public and private sector work. But it also means that we need to have Muslim and non-Muslim organisations developing services that signal inclusion and belonging. It means that we need to understand how Muslim youth work is like all other youth work, like some other youth work and like no other youth work.

M.G. Khan. Muslim Youth Work Foundation, 2025.

Observations

- MCB's comment based on the findings of the 2011 Census remains relevant: "there are many stakeholders rightly concerned with the wellbeing and educational potential of Muslim and BME youth. The need of the hour is to address issues such as underachievement, low teacher expectations, higher rates of student exclusions, racism and Islamophobia [...] Events such as the Trojan Horse affair have unfortunately only served to dishearten Muslim educationalists and community organisers seeking the best for local children [...] with public sector cuts in youth services, there will be a reduced safety net in terms of counselling services and provision of recreational services. This is a challenge for Muslim civil society [...]".¹
- In the MCB's affiliate network, there are mosques and other faith-based organisations rising to the challenge and providing activities for young people, ranging from sports clubs to counselling and support.
- The MCB is also aware that many affiliates are put off applying to the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) for community sector infrastructure projects that would benefit young persons because the lottery condones gambling. In response to a Freedom of Information request, the NLHF noted that it had been unable to identify any funding to Muslim community related projects in the 2022–2023 financial year. The MCB seeks to remove this disparity by urging for a non-lottery funding option – this was among the issues raised in its document *Commitments for British Muslims: A 2024 General Election Guide for Prospective Parliamentary Candidates*.²

¹ <https://mcb.org.uk/resources/british-muslims-in-numbers/> 2015, p. 39

² <https://mcb.org.uk/initiatives/ge2024-key-commitments/>

In the study, 34% of young people from Birmingham referred to a mix of youth work providing safe, supportive spaces growing up. We met with the Birmingham City Council-run Naseby Youth Club and the Concord Centre, both of which provide Muslim conscious spaces for young people, as well as the Muath Trust, a leading community anchor organisation offering youth work via its Amanah Youth Club. We also met with football training organisations, including Dream Chaser Youth Club, Birmingham Youth Sports Association and Pitch2Progress. Participants listed youth clubs (14%) and football clubs with their coach – “more than a coach”, more “a mentor” or “youth worker” (18%) and other sports clubs (2%) as safe, supportive spaces. In contrast, while Luton participants did not list any community or youth clubs as safe supportive spaces growing up, 11% listed “playing football” [...]

Significantly, despite the importance of young people attending the supplementary school or madrasah growing up, the mosque did not feature prominently in participant lists of safe, supportive spaces for young people.

Andy Turner and Aisha Khan. *Muslim Youth Futures Report, Faiths & Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths University of London, 2025* [see also www.hereforyouth.com]

An Asian cricket club has been left in a quandary – it needs £2million to improve its facilities but because most of its members are Muslim they won't apply for Lottery funding because of its gambling heritage. Mount Cricket Club in Batley, which has been in existence for more than 40 years, says it now faces an uncertain future due to the lack of alternative funding sources. Such grants are typically made by Sport England which is funded by the National Lottery but its Muslim members believe it is unethical to accept contributions funded by the gambling industry. The club is heavily involved in the local community and hosts food banks as well as working with schools and seeks to bring communities together.

Robert Sutcliffe, *Yorkshire Live*, 9 March 2020.

Here at WLICC [West London Islamic Centre], we recognise the important role that youth have to play in the future of our community which is why we seek to empower them through engaging programmes, strengthening them physically, mentally and spiritually, thereby creating a future generation that will not only benefit themselves but the wider community. Our youth programmes take a holistic approach to youth development. Our multifaceted approach enables us to better address the many problems they face, providing support and productive direction for them to invest their energy.

[*https://wlicc.org/department/fulham-youth-centre*](https://wlicc.org/department/fulham-youth-centre)

Karimia Youth Society is aimed at secondary school/college-aged young people (11-18). The reason we have invested in a Youth Society is to improve youth services being provided in our local community. It is all about helping and getting involved with the community. Furthermore, it's about unity and working together with external providers to inspire young people so that they can tackle their issues head-on in the future.

[*https://www.karimia.com/youth-work/ Nottingham*](https://www.karimia.com/youth-work/ Nottingham)

| **PART II**

5. ENGAGEMENT IN CIVIC LIFE

- 5.1 National Identity & Country of Birth
- 5.2 English Language Proficiency
- 5.3 Household Composition
- 5.4 Voting

Civic life is about contributing to community and society. This section draws on the Census on four aspects that reflect the Muslim potential for engaging and contributing to civic life: – the sense of belonging conveyed through responses to the National Identity question, English language proficiency; household composition, which convey the prevalence of the traditional family institution and finally, engagement in the nation’s democratic processes, most recently demonstrated in the 2024 General Election.

5.1 NATIONAL IDENTITY & COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Responses to the Census’s National Identity question required a tick box response, with an option for a write-in answer.

S5.F1: National Identity question – E&W

14 How would you describe your national identity?

➡ Tick all that apply

- ☐ British
- ☐ English
- ☐ Welsh
- ☐ Scottish
- ☐ Northern Irish
- ☐ Other, write in

S5.F2: National Identity question – S

22 What do you feel is your national identity?

◆ Tick all that apply

- ☐ Scottish
- ☐ English
- ☐ Northern Irish
- ☐ Welsh
- ☐ British
- ☐ Other, please write in:



S5.F3: National Identity question – NI

11 How would you describe your national identity?

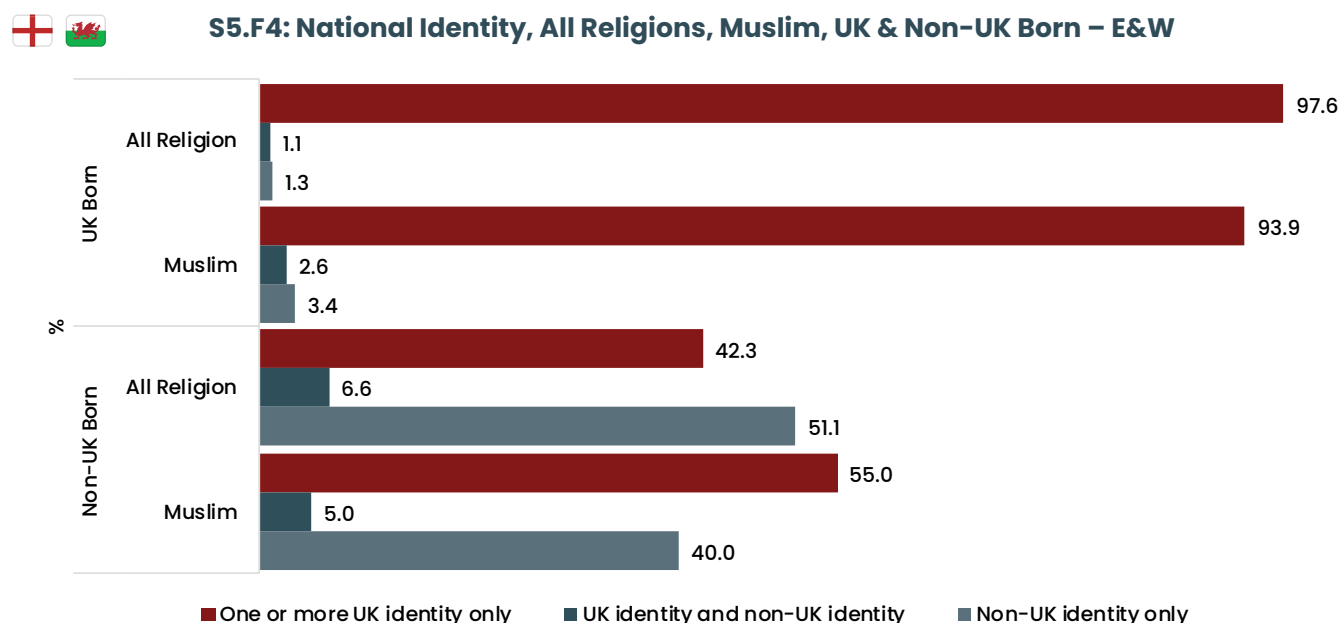
➡ Tick all that apply.

- ☐ British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Northern Irish
- ☐ English
- ☐ Scottish
- ☐ Welsh
- ☐ Other, write in



5.1.1 NATIONAL IDENTITY – UK AND NON-UK BORN MUSLIMS

A much greater proportion of Muslims, in England and Wales, born in the UK indicate a UK identity (93.9%) compared with those not born in the UK (55.0%).



5.1.2 NATIONAL IDENTITY – UK BORN MUSLIMS

For UK-Born Muslims residing in England and Wales, the proportion indicating a UK or non-UK National Identity varies depending on their birthplace within the four nations.

So, for example, in the population born in England, for 94% their National Identity is exclusively a UK one, but this increases to 96.6% allowing for a non-UK identity as well.

Similarly, for UK Born Muslims residing in England and Wales, but born in Wales or Scotland, for 90.5% and 92.1% respectively, it is solely a UK National Identity.

A small proportion of UK Born Muslims residing in England and Wales retain a non-UK National Identity only – but this too differs across the four nations, least where the birthplace was England (3.4%), and highest where it was Northern Ireland (10.7%, though it should be noted that the population in this category is only 125 persons).



S5.T1: National Identity, UK Born Muslims – E&W

Country of Birth	UK identity only		UK identity and non-UK identity		Non-UK identity only	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	1,819,049	94.0	49,912	2.6	65,964	3.4
Wales	27,467	90.5	1,364	4.5	1,536	5.1
Scotland	6,918	92.1	322	4.3	271	3.6
Northern Ireland	968	83.0	73	6.3	125	10.7
Great Britain not otherwise specified	26	78.8	1	3.0	6	18.2
United Kingdom not otherwise specified	302	63.0	20	4.2	157	32.8
Grant Total: UK Born	1,854,730	93.9	51,692	2.6	68,059	3.4

94.0% of the Muslim population in England and Wales born in the UK have a UK identity only; 96% have a UK identity and non-UK identity.



S5.T2: National Identity, Non-UK Born Muslims – E&W

Country of Birth	UK identity only		UK identity and non-UK identity		Non-UK identity only	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Ireland	1,632	32.9	369	7.4	2,966	59.7
Other Europe	82,712	32.1	13,572	5.3	161,428	62.6
Middle East	111,850	48.4	11,242	4.9	108,166	46.8
Central Asia	1,112	28.3	174	4.4	2,649	67.3
Eastern Asia	2,165	71.6	151	5.0	709	23.4
South-East Asia	8,036	36.8	1,509	6.9	12,315	56.3
Southern Asia	623,922	62.8	49,511	5.0	319,981	32.2
North Africa	57,394	44.9	8,001	6.3	62,541	48.9
Central and Western Africa	26,559	41.5	2,726	4.3	34,772	54.3
South and Eastern Africa	120,839	69.7	6,022	3.5	46,490	26.8
Africa not otherwise specified	552	70.1	11	1.4	225	28.6
North America and the Caribbean	3,757	44.7	751	8.9	3,896	46.4
Central and South America	1,134	63.7	85	4.8	560	31.5
Antarctica and Oceania (including Australasia)	624	54.2	101	8.8	427	37.1
Other	4	66.7	0	0.0	2	33.3
Grand Total: Non-UK Born	1,042,292	55.0	94,225	5.0	757,127	40.0

The greatest proportion of non-UK Born Muslims with a UK only identity are from South and East Africa, with exception of the small number from 'Africa not otherwise specified'.

[illegible]



S5.T6: National Identity by Religion, Non-UK Born – S

National Identity	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Not Stated	All Religions
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
One or more UK identity only	44.9	28.5	28.9	27.9	24.6	48.1	31.2	34.3	31.8	33.0
UK identity and Non-UK identity	9.8	9.5	9.9	9.4	13.2	7.8	14.2	10.5	10.3	10.0
Non-UK identity only	45.2	61.9	61.1	62.7	62.3	44.1	54.6	55.2	57.9	57.0
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



S5.T7: National Identity by Religion, UK Born – NI

National Identity	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Not Stated	All Religions
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
One or more UK identity only	81.3	99.2	93.7	76.3	-	-	96.7	98.1	97.7	99.0
UK identity and non-UK identity	5.9	0.3	3.4	10.4	-	-	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.4
Non-UK identity only	12.8	0.5	2.9	13.3	-	-	2.3	1.1	1.8	0.6
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0



S5.T8: National Identity by Religion, Non-UK Born – NI

National Identity	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Not Stated	All Religions
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
One or more UK identity only	27.8	23.4	25.6	28.6	-	-	28.7	24.8	13.7	24.0
UK identity and non-UK identity	3.9	4.0	9.7	5.6	-	-	6.8	4.6	2.2	4.2
Non-UK identity only	68.4	72.7	64.7	65.8	-	-	64.5	70.6	84.1	71.8
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Observations

- The responses to the national identity question reflect a sense of belonging to the British nation. The overwhelming majority of UK Born Muslims (93.9% in England and Wales, 88.8% in Scotland and 81.3% in Northern Ireland) indicate that their only national identity is a UK one.
- National identity in Northern Ireland is complex, with people identifying as British, Irish, both, or increasingly Northern Irish. Lower British identification among Muslims reflects this wider NI context and the higher proportion of Muslims in Northern Ireland born outside the UK compared with the rest of the UK.

[...] Blackburn Islamic school students celebrating England Euro 2020 winner [...] The video was shared on Twitter by Hasan Patel who said: *"British Muslim students from an Islamic seminary watching the #ENG game when Kane scored. This is the England we are part from which some people lead us to believe isn't possible, it is and the racists can do one."*

Shuiab Khan.Lancashiretelegraph.co.uk, 8 July 2021.

Growing up being Muslim, being Welsh, the two things just organically go together in the way that I lived my life [...] Everyone was very excited about Yusuf Islam coming [to the opening of the Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, University of Cardiff in 2005] and I think the thing for me that felt significant is knowing that this city, the place where I feel cynefin [...] the origin of the Word cynefin is a farming term called 'heft' which is the space where sheep comfortable to graze and it's been kind of adopted into terminology now here in Wales. Cynefin is the place where you belong; the place you feel is yours [...] It felt validating to me that my chosen faith had now become a viable topic of study in this city. It felt like a real kind of welcoming acceptance of my own blended identity.

Hanan Issa, National Poet of Wales, speaking at the 20 year anniversary of the Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, University of Cardiff, 18 September 2025.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KfKtk3cjlw>

5.2 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

The Census collects data on English language proficiency for households' usual residents aged 3 years and over. There are variations in the wording of the question in the Census of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

5.2.1 LANGUAGE QUESTIONS IN CENSUS

S5 F5: Language question – E

18 What is your main language?

☐ English → **GO TO 20**

☐ Other, write in (including British Sign Language)

19 How well can you speak English?

Very well Well Not well Not at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐



S5 F6: Language question – W

17 Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?

☒ Tick all that apply

☐ Understand spoken Welsh

☐ Speak Welsh

☐ Read Welsh

☐ Write Welsh

☐ **OR** none of the above

18 What is your main language?

☐ English or Welsh → **GO TO 20**

☐ Other, write in (including British Sign Language)

19 How well can you speak English?

Very well Well Not well Not at all

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐



S5 F7: Language question – S

13 How well can you understand, speak, read and write English?
 ♦ Tick **one** box in each column

	Understand (spoken)	Speak	Read	Write
Very well	☐	☐	☐	☐
Well	☐	☐	☐	☐
Not well	☐	☐	☐	☒
Not at all	☐	☐	☒	☐

14 Can you understand, speak, read and write Scottish Gaelic or Scots?
 ♦ Tick **all** that apply

	Understand (spoken)	Speak	Read	Write
Scottish Gaelic	☐	☒	☐	☐
Scots	☐	☐	☒	☐
or				
☐ No skills in either language				

15 Can you use British Sign Language (BSL)?
☐ Yes ☐ No

16 What is your main language?
 ♦ Tick **one** box only

☐ English

☐ Other, please write in (including BSL and TACTILE BSL):



S5 F8: Language question – NI

15 What is your main language?
☐ English → **GO TO 17**
☐ Other, write in (including British/Irish Sign Languages)

16 How well can you speak English?
 Very well Well Not well Not at all
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

17 Can you understand, speak, read or write Irish?
 ↻ Tick all that apply.

No ability	Understand	Speak	Read	Write
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How often do you speak Irish?
 Daily Weekly Less often Never
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

18 Can you understand, speak, read or write Ulster-Scots?
 ↻ Tick all that apply.

No ability	Understand	Speak	Read	Write
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How often do you speak Ulster-Scots?
 Daily Weekly Less often Never
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐



5.2.2 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY – INTERFAITH COMPARISON (ENGLAND AND WALES)



S5.T9: English language proficiency by Religion, All Genders – E&W

Proficiency in English	All Religions	Muslim	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Sikh	Other Religion	No Religion	Not Stated
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Main language is English	91.1	67.4	92.0	64.2	59.4	93.8	62.1	84.0	96.6	91.0
Main language is not English:										
– Can speak English very well or well	7.1	23.2	6.6	27.1	34.0	5.2	28.9	11.9	2.9	7.2
– Cannot speak English well	1.5	7.8	1.2	7.3	5.3	0.8	7.3	3.4	0.4	1.5
– Cannot speak English	0.3	1.5	0.2	1.3	1.3	0.2	1.7	0.7	0.1	0.3
Grand Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

For 91.1% of the overall population of England and Wales, the main language is English; it is 67.4% for the Muslim population. If, however, the categories of 'Main language is English' and 'English is spoken very well or well' are combined, this would apply to 98.2% of the overall population, and 90.6% of the Muslim population.

The proportion of the Muslim population for whom English is the main language is more than that of the other minority faith communities, except for those with Jewish religious affiliation.

5.2.3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY BY UK BORN OR NON-UK BORN AND BY GENDER (ENGLAND AND WALES)

The level of English language proficiency varies depending on whether the population is UK or non-UK Born. Overall, English is the main language for over 99% of the UK Born men and women, and 52% for the non-UK Born. If the categories of 'Main language is English' and 'Can speak English very well or well' are combined, this would apply to 91.6% of men and 88.9% of women who are non-UK Born.

S5.T10: English language proficiency by gender, UK Born, All Religions – E&W

 	Proficiency in English	UK Born					
		Male		Female		Both Gender	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	Main language is English	23,320,032	99.2	24,045,815	99.3	47,365,847	99.2
	Main language is not English:						
	- Can speak English very well or well	149,394	0.6	150,819	0.6	300,213	0.6
	- Cannot speak English well	20,968	0.1	21,183	0.1	42,151	0.1
	- Cannot speak English	10,078	0.0	7,858	0.0	17,936	0.0
	Grand Total	23,500,472	100.0	24,225,675	100.0	47,726,147	100.0

S5.T11: English language proficiency by gender, Non-UK Born, All Religions – E&W

 	Proficiency in English	Non-UK Born					
		Male		Female		Both Gender	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	Main language is English	2,452,679	52.1	2,751,289	52.2	5,203,968	52.2
	Main language is not English:						
	- Can speak English very well or well	1,859,667	39.5	1,934,222	36.7	3,793,889	38.0
	- Cannot speak English well	350,308	7.4	487,323	9.2	837,631	8.4
	- Cannot speak English	44,656	0.9	97,967	1.9	142,623	1.4
	Grand Total	4,707,310	100.0	5,270,801	100.0	9,978,111	100.0

In the Muslim population that is British born and male, 99.2% (94.1% + 5.1%) are in the combined proficiency categories of 'Main language is English' and 'English is spoken very well or well'; for women it is 98.9% (93.5% + 5.4%).

In the Muslim population that is not British born and male, 88.3% (46.1% + 42.2%) are in the combined proficiency categories of 'Main language is English' and 'English is spoken very well or well'; for women it is 77.1% (39.2% + 37.9%).

S5.T12: English language proficiency by gender, UK Born, Muslim – E&W

 	Proficiency in English	UK Born					
		Male		Female		Both Gender	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	Main language is English	839,682	94.1	820,711	93.4	1,660,393	93.8
	Main language is not English:						
	- Can speak English very well or well	45,324	5.1	47,527	5.4	92,851	5.2
	- Cannot speak English well	5,436	0.6	7,899	0.9	13,335	0.8
	- Cannot speak English	1,843	0.2	2,131	0.2	3,974	0.2
	Grand Total	892,285	100.0	878,268	100.0	1,770,553	100.0

S5.T13: English language proficiency by gender, Non-UK Born, Muslim – E&W

 	Proficiency in English	Non-UK Born					
		Male		Female		Both Gender	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	Main language is English	442,840	46.1	361,987	39.2	804,827	42.7
	Main language is not English:						
	- Can speak English very well or well	404,573	42.1	350,033	37.9	754,606	40.0
	- Cannot speak English well	100,466	10.5	172,630	18.7	273,096	14.5
	- Cannot speak English	12,329	1.3	39,904	4.3	52,233	2.8
	Grand Total	960,208	100.0	924,554	100.0	1,884,762	100.0

S5.T19: English language proficiency by age band, Muslim, Female – S

	English language skills	Muslim – Female						
		All Ages	Aged 15 and under	Aged 16 to 24	Aged 25 to 34	Aged 35 to 49	Aged 50 to 64	Aged 65 and over
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Understands spoken English only	1.5	1.2	0.1	0.8	1.5	3.3	6.2	
Speaks, reads and writes English	77.2	76.0	94.3	81.6	76.5	64.9	36.9	
Speaks but does not read or write English	5.1	12.8	0.4	1.1	2.2	4.4	8.6	
Speaks and reads but does not write English	1.9	1.8	0.5	1.4	2.3	3.6	3.8	
Reads but does not speak or write English	1.1	0.2	0.4	1.3	1.9	1.6	1.8	
Writes but does not speak or read English	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Reads and writes but does not speak English	1.6	0.2	0.7	2.5	2.9	2.3	1.3	
Other Combinations of skills in English	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	
Limited English skills	8.9	5.9	2.7	9.3	9.9	14.7	29.2	
No skills in English	2.4	1.6	0.8	1.7	2.1	4.6	11.8	
All Categories: English Language Skills	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

NORTHERN IRELAND

The proportion of the Muslim population in Northern Ireland that cannot speak English is higher than in the other nations in the UK: 4.8% for both genders, compared with 1.5% in England and Wales, and 1.8% in Scotland.

S5.T20: English language proficiency by age band, Muslim, All Genders – NI

[illegible]

S5.T21: English language proficiency by age band, Muslim, Male – NI

English Language Proficiency	Muslim – Male						
	All Ages	Aged 15 and under	Aged 16 to 24	Aged 25 to 34	Aged 35 to 49	Aged 50 to 64	Aged 65 and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Main Language is English	44.7	54.3	44.6	39.8	42.1	40.2	39.2
Main Language is not English:							
- Can speak English very well	20.6	13.0	21.6	25.6	22.6	21.4	28.4
- Can speak English well	19.5	16.9	21.2	20.7	20.6	19.1	15.5
- Cannot speak English well	11.4	11.7	10.5	11.3	11.0	12.8	11.5
- Cannot speak English	3.8	4.1	2.1	2.7	3.6	6.6	5.4
All Categories: English Language Proficiency	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

S5.T22: English language proficiency by age band, Muslim, Female – NI

English Language Proficiency	Muslim – Female						
	All Ages	Aged 15 and under	Aged 16 to 24	Aged 25 to 34	Aged 35 to 49	Aged 50 to 64	Aged 65 and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Main Language is English	43.1	55.0	47.8	38.9	32.2	35.5	31.9
Main Language is not English:							
- Can speak English very well	17.1	15.1	22.8	16.0	18.7	14.8	6.6
- Can speak English well	17.8	15.4	17.1	22.0	19.8	12.5	12.1
- Cannot speak English well	15.7	10.3	9.8	18.3	22.1	21.4	16.5
- Cannot speak English	6.2	4.2	2.4	4.9	7.2	15.8	33.0
All Categories: English Language Proficiency	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

5.2.5 LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (INCLUDING WELSH & SCOTS) – INTERFAITH COMPARISON

In England, 67.5% of Muslims consider English their main language, compared with 59.4% for Hindus, 62.1% for Sikhs, and 63.8% for Buddhists.

Polish is the second most common language in the overall population. Urdu is the second most common language among Muslims, Gujarati among Hindus, and Panjabi among Sikhs.

Muslims in England are a truly multilingual population, with proportionally twice as many French speakers as the overall population.


S5.T23: Main languages by Religion - E

Main Language	All religions		Muslim		Christian		Buddhist	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
English (English or Welsh if in Wales)	49,652,173	90.8	2,424,375	67.5	23,561,263	91.8	165,205	63.8
Any other UK languages	11,437	0.0	198	0.0	5,926	0.0	54	0.0
French	118,630	0.2	14,009	0.4	51,063	0.2	546	0.2
Portuguese	221,074	0.4	3,843	0.1	156,558	0.6	596	0.2
Polish	590,982	1.1	2,195	0.1	464,148	1.8	778	0.3
Spanish	211,996	0.4	8,200	0.2	123,798	0.5	628	0.2
Russian	89,910	0.2	2,575	0.1	55,855	0.2	298	0.1
Turkish	110,651	0.2	68,063	1.9	1,890	0.0	110	0.0
Other European language (EU)	1,224,531	2.2	29,608	0.8	875,030	3.4	2,576	1.0
Other European languages (non-EU)	97,152	0.2	25,724	0.7	37,975	0.1	81	0.0
South Asian language: Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya)	194,821	0.4	176,761	4.9	1,296	0.0	248	0.1
South Asian language: Gujarati	188,204	0.3	34,897	1.0	1,306	0.0	47	0.0
South Asian language: Panjabi	288,659	0.5	75,891	2.1	3,223	0.0	317	0.1
South Asian language: Tamil	123,728	0.2	6,938	0.2	17,486	0.1	80	0.0
South Asian language: Urdu	267,612	0.5	254,466	7.1	3,379	0.0	66	0.0
South Asian language: Any other South Asian languages	294,523	0.5	44,204	1.2	60,696	0.2	30,068	11.6
East Asian language: Mandarin, Cantonese and other Chinese languages	197,756	0.4	1,060	0.0	26,922	0.1	20,888	8.1
East Asian language: Any other East Asian languages	152,939	0.3	6,990	0.2	74,586	0.3	35,849	13.8
West or Central Asian languages	215,376	0.4	148,792	4.1	20,880	0.1	111	0.0
Arabic	195,484	0.4	171,208	4.8	10,465	0.0	66	0.0
African languages	202,156	0.4	86,568	2.4	104,734	0.4	138	0.1
Any other languages (including sign and supported languages)	36,297	0.1	5,559	0.2	15,920	0.1	174	0.1
Grand Total: Main Language	54,686,091	100.0	3,592,124	100.0	25,674,399	100.0	258,924	100.0

Hindu		Jewish		Sikh		Other religion		No religion		Not stated	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
584,779	59.4	242,845	93.8	311,430	62.1	273,352	83.5	19,133,896	96.5	2,955,028	90.7
9	0.0	35	0.0	6	0.0	176	0.1	4,260	0.0	773	0.0
1,089	0.1	1,687	0.7	56	0.0	664	0.2	38,539	0.2	10,977	0.3
1,001	0.1	363	0.1	48	0.0	2,301	0.7	44,430	0.2	11,934	0.4
187	0.0	295	0.1	106	0.0	1,889	0.6	75,353	0.4	46,031	1.4
179	0.0	719	0.3	104	0.0	1,182	0.4	60,752	0.3	16,434	0.5
121	0.0	659	0.3	26	0.0	757	0.2	22,221	0.1	7,398	0.2
29	0.0	185	0.1	9	0.0	12,402	3.8	18,318	0.1	9,645	0.3
1,835	0.2	1,542	0.6	1,326	0.3	6,303	1.9	210,630	1.1	95,681	2.9
70	0.0	4,607	1.8	37	0.0	397	0.1	19,796	0.1	8,465	0.3
8,977	0.9	43	0.0	55	0.0	95	0.0	957	0.0	6,389	0.2
139,444	14.2	14	0.0	345	0.1	7,490	2.3	490	0.0	4,171	0.1
13,856	1.4	17	0.0	184,123	36.7	3,879	1.2	1,012	0.0	6,341	0.2
94,170	9.6	10	0.0	87	0.0	114	0.0	1,662	0.0	3,181	0.1
321	0.0	18	0.0	111	0.0	82	0.0	603	0.0	8,566	0.3
136,175	13.8	22	0.0	1,681	0.3	7,715	2.4	4,891	0.0	9,071	0.3
233	0.0	45	0.0	91	0.0	1,107	0.3	129,021	0.7	18,389	0.6
296	0.0	53	0.0	36	0.0	1,067	0.3	26,180	0.1	7,882	0.2
389	0.0	5,393	2.1	1,515	0.3	4,952	1.5	20,475	0.1	12,869	0.4
119	0.0	124	0.0	103	0.0	688	0.2	3,621	0.0	9,090	0.3
316	0.0	123	0.0	52	0.0	439	0.1	3,388	0.0	6,398	0.2
1,680	0.2	165	0.1	313	0.1	428	0.1	9,655	0.0	2,403	0.1
985,275	100.0	258,964	100.0	501,660	100.0	327,479	100.0	19,830,150	100.0	3,257,116	100.0

There are over 8,000 Muslims with a level of proficiency in the Welsh language.



S5.T24: Welsh language by Religion - W

Welsh Language Skills	All religions		Muslim		Christian		Buddhist	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Can speak and other combinations of skills in Welsh	108,982	3.6	1,309	2.1	50,743	3.8	273	2.7
Can speak, read and write Welsh	429,313	14.2	2,832	4.5	203,026	15.2	750	7.5
Can understand spoken Welsh only	156,762	5.2	2,078	3.3	74,626	5.6	507	5.1
Other combination of skills in Welsh	64,101	2.1	2,221	3.5	29,698	2.2	229	2.3
No skills in Welsh	2,259,017	74.8	54,747	86.6	977,978	73.2	8,240	82.4
Total: Welsh Language Skills	3,018,175	100.0	63,187	100.0	1,336,071	100.0	9,999	100.0

Welsh Language Skills	Hindu		Jewish		Sikh		Other religion	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Can speak and other combinations of skills in Welsh	199	1.7	54	2.7	102	2.6	694	4.4
Can speak, read and write Welsh	490	4.1	155	7.7	202	5.2	2,201	13.9
Can understand spoken Welsh only	357	3.0	79	3.9	104	2.7	926	5.9
Other combination of skills in Welsh	201	1.7	56	2.8	43	1.1	548	3.5
No skills in Welsh	10,576	89.5	1,671	82.9	3,446	88.4	11,442	72.4
Total: Welsh Language Skills	11,823	100.0	2,015	100.0	3,897	100.0	15,811	100.0

Welsh Language Skills	No religion		Not stated	
	Number	%	Number	%
Can speak and other combinations of skills in Welsh	48,269	3.5	7,339	3.9
Can speak, read and write Welsh	194,825	14.0	24,832	13.2
Can understand spoken Welsh only	69,104	5.0	8,981	4.8
Other combination of skills in Welsh	27,302	2.0	3,803	2.0
No skills in Welsh	1,048,251	75.5	142,666	76.0
Total: Welsh Language Skills	1,387,751	100.0	187,621	100.0

There are over 14,000 Muslims who can speak Scots. Slightly over half (53.8%) of the overall population of Scotland has no skills in Scots. 74.1% of Muslims, 84.0% of Hindus and 70.0% of Sikhs in Scotland have no skills in Scots.



S5.T25: Scots language by Religion – S

Scots Language Skills	All religions		Muslim		Christian		Buddhist	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Understands but does not speak, read or write Scots	722,587	13.6	12,965	11.4	293,320	14.1	1,847	12.0
Speaks, reads and writes Scots	1,176,252	22.2	9,003	7.9	491,795	23.6	1,729	11.3
Speaks but does not read or write Scots	174,254	3.3	4,076	3.6	65,782	3.2	320	2.1
Speaks and reads but does not write Scots	158,031	3.0	1,456	1.3	63,892	3.1	311	2.0
Reads but does not speak or write Scots	193,306	3.7	1,386	1.2	67,177	3.2	663	4.3
Other combination of skills in Scots	20,223	0.4	496	0.4	7,908	0.4	70	0.5
No skills in Scots	2,850,205	53.8	83,987	74.1	1,092,980	52.5	10,414	67.8
Total: Scots Language Skills	5,294,858	100.0	113,369	100.0	2,082,854	100.0	15,354	100.0

Scots Language Skills	Hindu		Jewish		Sikh		Other religion	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Understands but does not speak, read or write Scots	2,702	9.4	546	9.4	1,178	11.1	4,066	13.0
Speaks, reads and writes Scots	915	3.2	402	6.9	1,288	12.2	8,573	27.4
Speaks but does not read or write Scots	431	1.5	53	0.9	412	3.9	1,027	3.3
Speaks and reads but does not write Scots	154	0.5	71	1.2	156	1.5	1,264	4.0
Reads but does not speak or write Scots	284	1.0	312	5.4	112	1.1	2,373	7.6
Other combination of skills in Scots	76	0.3	25	0.4	39	0.4	260	0.8
No skills in Scots	24,033	84.0	4,377	75.6	7,415	70.0	13,714	43.8
Total: Scots Language Skills	28,595	100.0	5,786	100.0	10,600	100.0	31,277	100.0

Scots Language Skills	No religion		Not stated	
	Number	%	Number	%
Understands but does not speak, read or write Scots	369,677	13.8	36,286	11.1
Speaks, reads and writes Scots	603,525	22.5	59,022	18.1
Speaks but does not read or write Scots	92,941	3.5	9,212	2.8
Speaks and reads but does not write Scots	82,794	3.1	7,933	2.4
Reads but does not speak or write Scots	111,225	4.1	9,774	3.0
Other combination of skills in Scots	10,086	0.4	1,263	0.4
No skills in Scots	1,411,113	52.6	202,172	62.1
Total: Scots Language Skills	2,681,361	100.0	325,662	100.0

Observations

- The proportion of the Muslim population in England and Wales (UK Born and Non-UK Born) for whom English is the main language or is spoken very well or well is comparable with the rest of the population (90.6% and 98.2% respectively). However, the proportion of Muslim women in England and Wales in the age band 65 years and over with these levels of proficiency is low – 46.5%. This has wider implications, notably in accessing health services and digital platforms.
- The Scots and Welsh speaking Muslims may be small in number (but proportionally more than the other Minority Faiths), but an example of faith being lived attuned to the milieu.
- England's Muslim population is particularly polyglot. With British Muslim connections to the Muslim world, the United Kingdom can act as a bridge for trade, understanding and peace.

Yn enw Duw, y Trugarogaf, y Careidcaf
Adroddwch, yn enw'ch Arglwydd a greodd
A greodd ddyn o dolchen.
Adroddwch, a'ch Arglwydd yw'r Haelaf
A ddysgodd trwy'r ysgrifbin
A ddysgodd i ddyn yr hyn na wyddai.

Opening verses from Surah Al-Alaq (The Clot) of the Qur'an, read by Dr Laura Jones at the 20 year anniversary of the Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, University of Cardiff, 18 September 2025.

People with low literacy or English language proficiency are less able to navigate essential government services or official information [. . .] In addition, having low literacy or English skills could be a barrier to accessing support to help overcome any difficulties experienced.

Digital exclusion, A review of Ofcom's research on digital exclusion among adults in the UK, Office of Communications, March 2022.

5.3 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

In the Census, one person living alone, or a group of people at the same address who share cooking facilities and a living room or dining area, is considered a household. For ease of presentation, in some of the data tables that follow, categories relating to couples (married, civil partnership, cohabiting) are tabulated separately from those relating to lone parents or 'Other household types'. The Census also makes a distinction between a household as a single entity (a household has one and only one household reference person, HRP) and a household's usual residents (all the members in that household, including the HRP). In the table headings, the term 'household count' refers to the former, and 'usual resident' to the latter.

ENGLAND AND WALES

5.3.1 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION – ALL RELIGIONS AND MUSLIM

There are approximately 370,000 Muslim married households with dependent children, 35.7% compared with 14.3% for the overall population. This is consistent with the younger age profile (see section 3.2). The data also indicates that the proportion of Muslim households in the 'Lone Parent with dependent children' category (10.3%) is higher than the overall population (6.9%). There are about 170,000 one-person Muslim households.

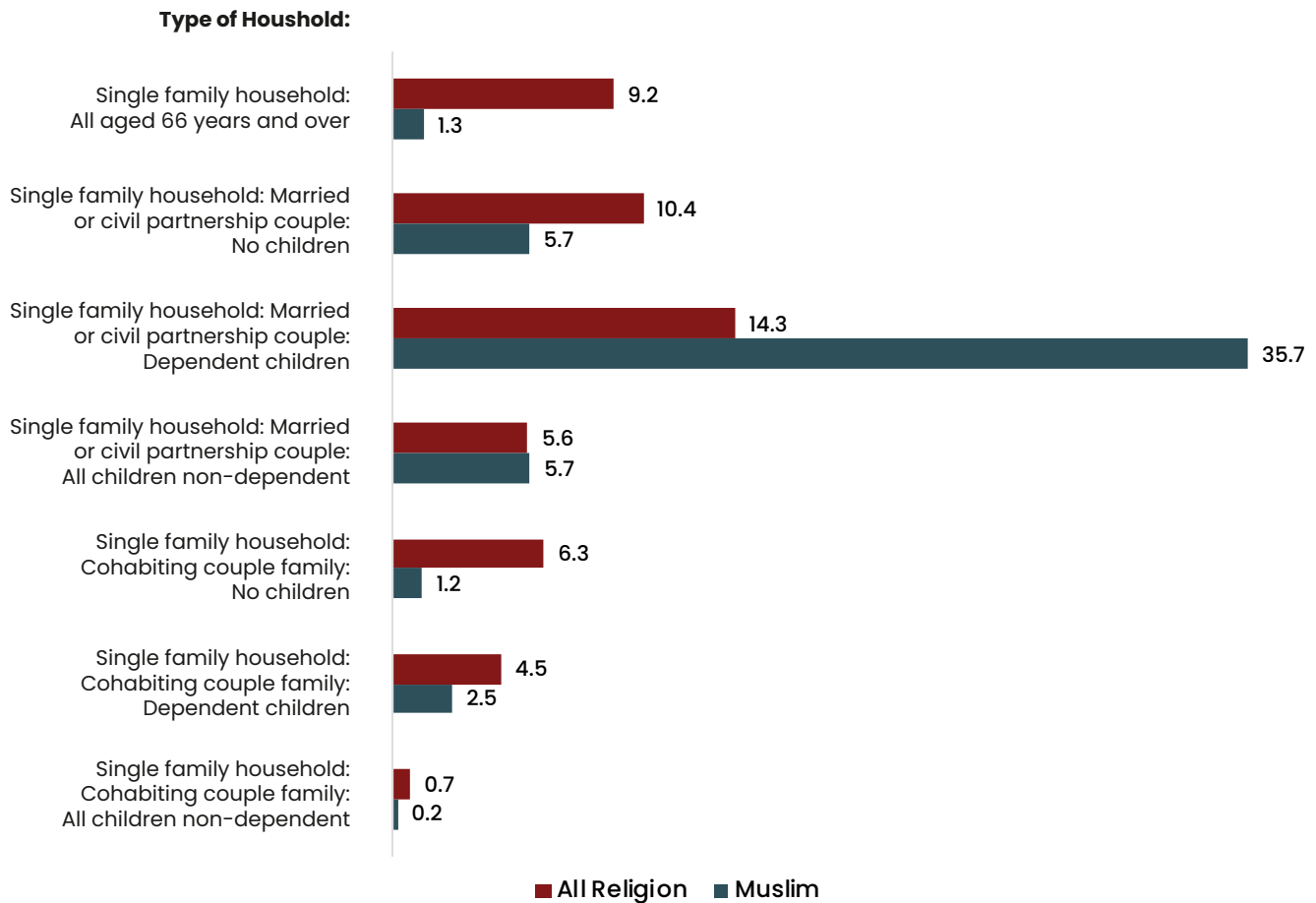


S5.T26: Household composition by HRP, All Religions, Muslim – E&W

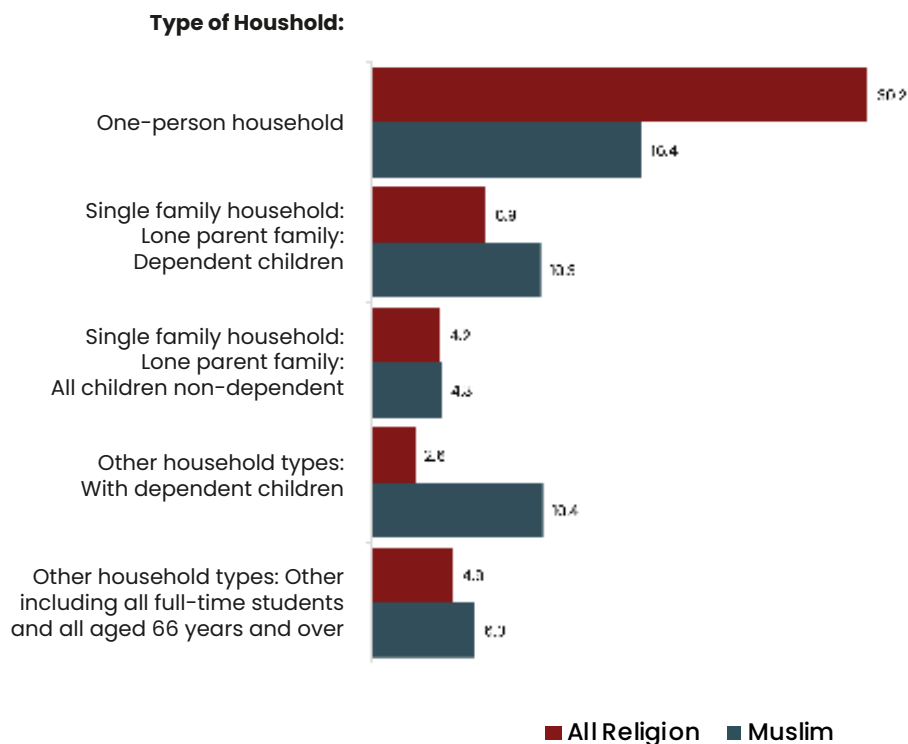
Household Composition	All religions		Muslim	
	Household	%	Household	%
One-person household	7,481,785	30.2	172,304	16.4
Single family household				
All aged 66 years and over	2,283,287	9.2	13,455	1.3
Married or civil partnership couple: No children	2,585,220	10.4	59,741	5.7
Married or civil partnership couple: Dependent children	3,535,421	14.3	373,761	35.7
Married or civil partnership couple: All children non-dependent	1,395,851	5.6	60,044	5.7
Cohabiting couple family: No children	1,564,054	6.3	12,896	1.2
Cohabiting couple family: With dependent children	1,120,941	4.5	26,073	2.5
Cohabiting couple family: All children non-dependent	179,632	0.7	2,052	0.2
Lone parent family: With dependent children	1,719,350	6.9	107,868	10.3
Lone parent family: All children non-dependent	1,037,387	4.2	44,648	4.3
Other household types				
With dependent children	656,417	2.6	109,188	10.4
Other, including all full-time students and all aged 66 years and over	1,223,851	4.9	65,713	6.3
All Categories: All Household	24,783,196	100.0	1,047,743	100.0



S5.F9a: Household composition by HRP, All Religions, Muslim – E&W



S5.F9b: Household composition by HRP, All Religions, Muslim – E&W



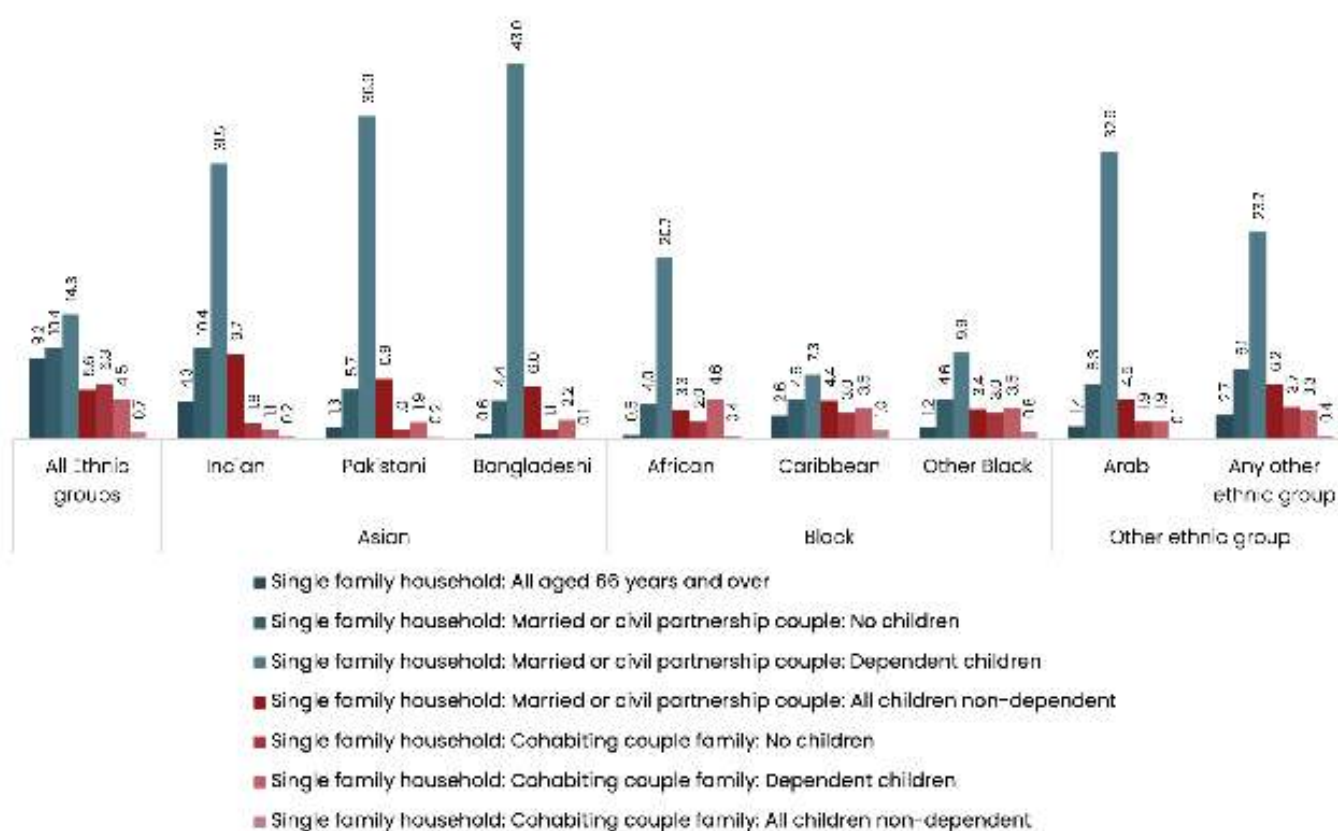
5.3.2 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND ETHNICITY COMPARISONS

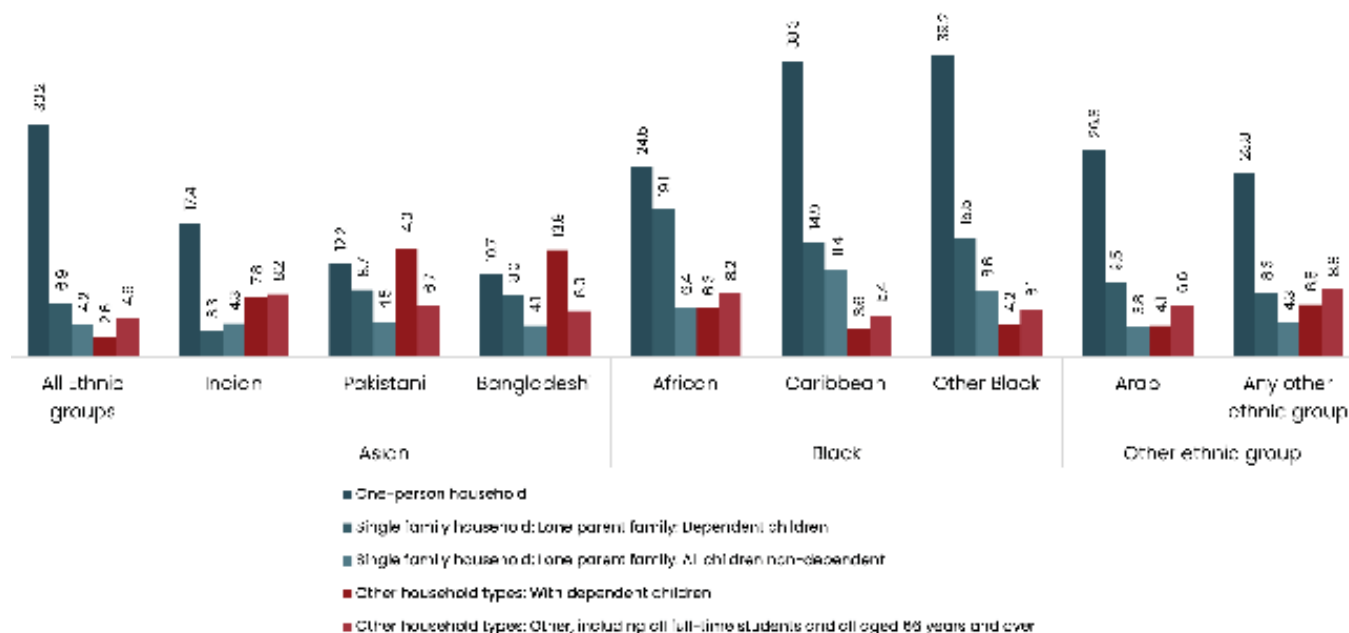
In comparison between ethnic categories in England and Wales, the greatest proportion in the 'Married or civil registration couple with dependent children' category is in Bangladeshi households (43.0%), followed by Pakistani and Arab households (36.9% and 32.9% respectively).

In comparison between ethnic categories, the highest proportion in the 'one person household' category is in the 'Other Black', Caribbean and Arab households (39.2%, 38.3% and 26.8% respectively). The lowest proportion in the 'one-person household' category is in the Bangladeshi and Pakistani ethnic categories (10.7% and 12.2% respectively). The 'African' ethnic category has the greatest proportion of households in the 'Lone parent family with dependent children' category (19.1%), with the lowest proportions found in Indian ethnicity households (3.3%) and higher proportions in the Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic categories (8.7% and 8.0% respectively).



S5.F10a: Household composition by Ethnic group of HRP – E&W

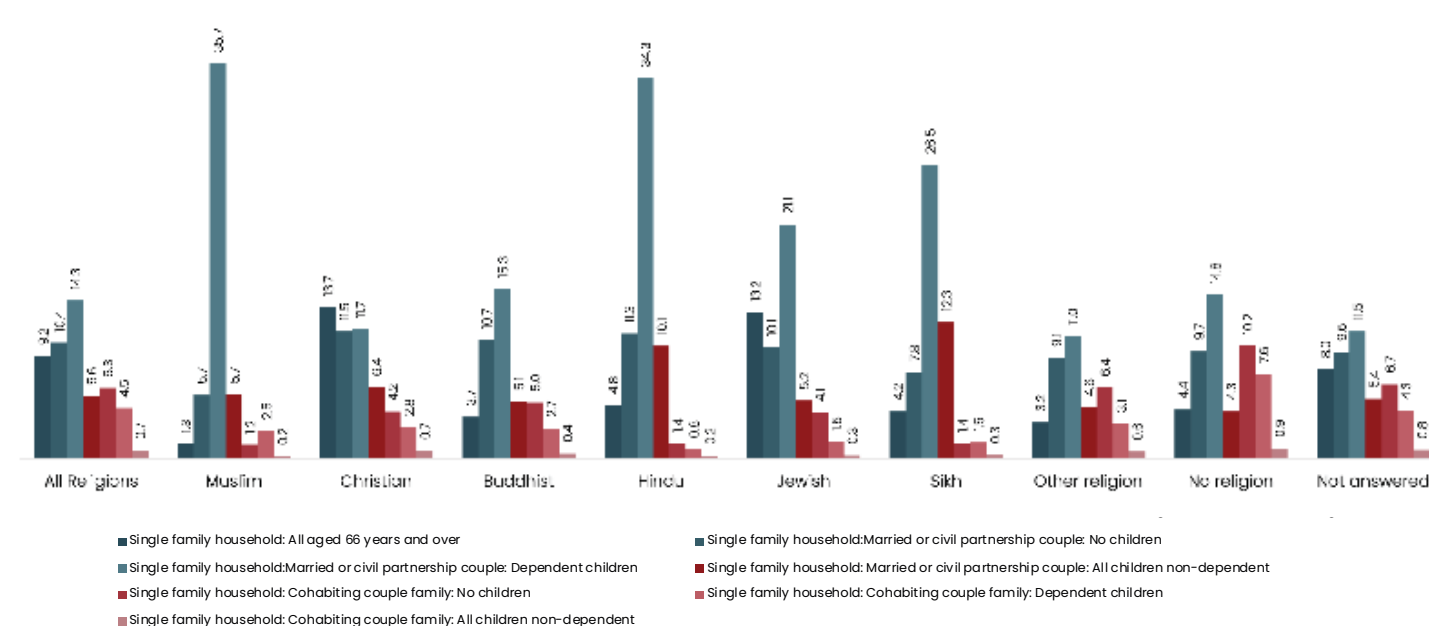



S5.F10b: Household composition by Ethnic group of HRP – E&W


5.3.3 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND INTERFAITH COMPARISONS – HOUSEHOLD REFERENCE PERSON

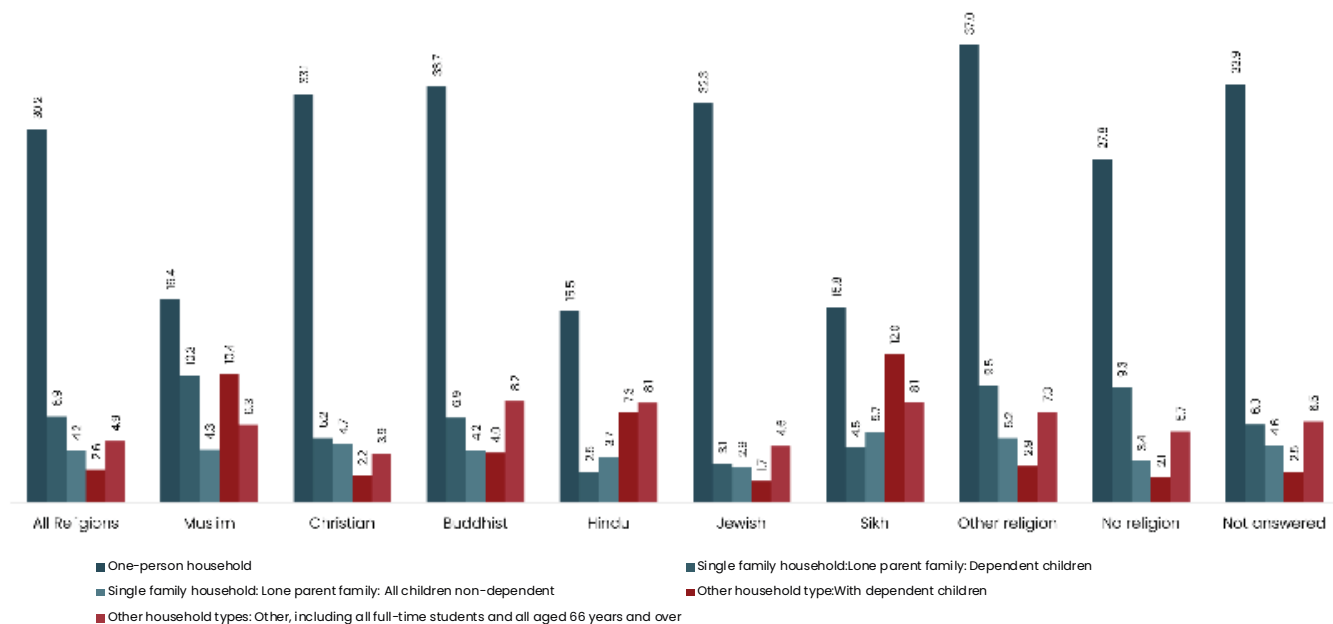
In comparison with other religions in England and Wales, the greatest proportion in the 'Married or civil registration couple with dependent children' category is in Muslim households (35.7%), followed by Hindu and Sikh households (34.3% and 26.5% respectively).

While 10.3% of Muslim households are in the 'Lone parent family with dependent children' category, in comparison with other religions, the lowest proportion in this category is Hindu households (2.5%), followed by Jewish and Sikh households (3.1% and 4.5% respectively).


S5.F11a: Household composition by Religion of HRP – E&W




S5.F11b: Household composition by Religion of HRP – E&W



5.3.4 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND INTERFAITH COMPARISONS – USUAL RESIDENTS

ENGLAND AND WALES

In comparison with other religions, the greatest proportion of the Muslim population resides in households of the type 'Married or civil registration couples with one (or two or more dependent children)' – 45.1%. This is followed by Hindu and Sikh households (41.9% and 32.3%). There are 25,375 Muslims aged 66 years and over living alone i.e. One-person household.



S5.T27a: Household composition by usual residents by Religion of HRP – E&W

Household Composition	All Religions		Muslim		Hindu		Jewish	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
One-person household:								
Aged 66 years and over	3,197,844	5.5	25,375	0.7	16,022	1.6	18,957	7.1
Other	4,283,942	7.3	146,929	3.8	37,375	3.7	17,274	6.5
Single family household:								
All aged 66 years and over	4,568,509	7.8	26,230	0.7	32,805	3.2	29,174	11.0
Lone parent family:								
With one dependent child	1,943,025	3.3	103,041	2.7	10,211	1.0	3,755	1.4
With two or more dependent children	2,988,699	5.1	266,330	7.0	11,084	1.1	5,071	1.9
All children non-dependent	2,311,963	3.9	113,333	3.0	26,842	2.6	6,560	2.5
Other household types:								
All in full-time education	408,633	0.7	14,660	0.4	12,401	1.2	3,021	1.1
All aged 66 years and over	65,356	0.1	529	0.0	1,210	0.1	433	0.2
With one dependent child	1,374,267	2.3	174,038	4.5	53,318	5.3	2,590	1.0
With two or more dependent children	2,024,656	3.5	521,496	13.6	85,476	8.4	7,384	2.8
Other family composition	2,961,705	5.1	180,110	4.7	78,021	7.7	10,560	4.0
Other related household:								
Other family composition	439,246	0.8	46,292	1.2	10,231	1.0	1,507	0.6
All Categories: Usual residents in Household	58,555,853	100.0	3,825,693	100.0	1,015,302	100.0	266,165	100.0

While 9.7% of the Muslim population resides in households in the ‘Lone parent family with dependent children’ category, in comparison with other religions, the lowest proportion in this category is Hindu households (2.1%), followed by Jewish and Sikh households (3.3% and 3.9% respectively).

Sikh		Christian		Buddhist		Other religion		No religion		Not stated	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
7,346	1.4	2,372,732	8.7	10,157	3.9	12,193	3.6	558,982	2.6	176,080	5.2
18,265	3.5	1,801,265	6.6	30,025	11.4	49,248	14.5	1,896,669	8.7	286,892	8.4
13,601	2.6	3,514,913	13.0	9,334	3.5	11,391	3.3	713,109	3.3	217,952	6.4
8,825	1.7	705,984	2.6	7,512	2.8	13,626	4.0	971,953	4.5	118,118	3.5
11,209	2.2	970,373	3.6	5,833	2.2	12,846	3.8	1,541,349	7.1	164,604	4.8
21,257	4.1	1,095,772	4.0	9,640	3.7	18,299	5.4	860,818	4.0	159,442	4.7
2,467	0.5	91,791	0.3	2,814	1.1	3,259	1.0	230,787	1.1	47,433	1.4
437	0.1	45,820	0.2	353	0.1	433	0.1	11,012	0.1	5,129	0.2
36,895	7.1	589,749	2.2	11,013	4.2	9,743	2.9	404,656	1.9	92,265	2.7
75,838	14.6	710,876	2.6	11,877	4.5	10,645	3.1	475,117	2.2	125,947	3.7
42,566	8.2	1,188,771	4.4	24,748	9.4	29,497	8.7	1,176,146	5.4	231,286	6.8
4,407	0.8	184,107	0.7	3,366	1.3	3,866	1.1	149,853	0.7	35,617	1.0
519,708	100.0	27,132,850	100.0	263,712	100.0	340,129	100.0	21,781,625	100.0	3,410,669	100.0


S5.T27b: Household composition by usual residents by Religion of HRP – E&W

Household Composition	All Religions		Muslim		Hindu		Jewish	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Single family household:								
Opposite-sex married couple family:								
No children	5,044,816	8.6	119,671	3.1	77,419	7.6	21,218	8.0
With one dependent child	4,434,277	7.6	350,559	9.2	169,289	16.7	20,114	7.6
With two or more dependent children	9,689,440	16.5	1,372,687	35.9	256,322	25.2	83,675	31.4
All children non-dependent	4,619,811	7.9	221,747	5.8	115,424	11.4	18,048	6.8
Opposite-sex civil partnership couple family:								
No children	13,437	0.0	228	0.0	73	0.0	76	0.0
With one dependent child	8,803	0.0	404	0.0	158	0.0	19	0.0
With two or more dependent children	15,639	0.0	1,603	0.0	282	0.0	68	0.0
All children non-dependent	4,574	0.0	142	0.0	83	0.0	3	0.0
Opposite-sex cohabiting couple family:								
No children	2,918,780	5.0	23,378	0.6	8,584	0.8	8,215	3.1
With one dependent child	1,675,145	2.9	25,801	0.7	3,478	0.3	2,259	0.8
With two or more dependent children	2,551,850	4.4	77,326	2.0	5,146	0.5	3,073	1.2
All children non-dependent	575,413	1.0	6,812	0.2	2,124	0.2	834	0.3
- Same-sex married couple family:								
No children	74,881	0.1	430	0.0	241	0.0	589	0.2
With one dependent child	15,904	0.0	96	0.0	52	0.0	80	0.0
With two or more dependent children	16,049	0.0	122	0.0	37	0.0	123	0.0
All children non-dependent	3,598	0.0	18	0.0	2	0.0	6	0.0
Same-sex civil partnership couple family:								
No children	37,306	0.1	317	0.0	158	0.0	274	0.1
With one dependent child	3,510	0.0	5	0.0	7	0.0	18	0.0
With two or more dependent children	5,368	0.0	21	0.0	6	0.0	75	0.0
All children non-dependent	1,364	0.0	4	0.0	4	0.0	9	0.0
Same-sex cohabiting couple family:								
No children	209,328	0.4	2,883	0.1	866	0.1	877	0.3
With one dependent child	24,124	0.0	777	0.0	197	0.0	80	0.0
With two or more dependent children	30,681	0.1	1,863	0.0	255	0.0	104	0.0
All children non-dependent	13,910	0.0	436	0.0	99	0.0	42	0.0
All Categories:	58,555,853	100.0	3,825,693	100.0	1,015,302	100.0	266,165	100.0
Usual residents in Household								

Sikh		Christian		Buddhist		Other religion		No religion		Not stated	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
25,155	4.8	2,907,537	10.7	28,145	10.7	30,646	9.0	1,579,571	7.3	255,454	7.5
53,402	10.3	1,896,976	7.0	26,866	10.2	24,775	7.3	1,647,552	7.6	244,744	7.2
114,166	22.0	3,925,159	14.5	36,062	13.7	38,383	11.3	3,363,364	15.4	499,622	14.6
69,605	13.4	2,437,656	9.0	20,029	7.6	28,043	8.2	1,440,826	6.6	268,433	7.9
22	0.0	4,521	0.0	104	0.0	100	0.0	7,501	0.0	812	0.0
27	0.0	3,289	0.0	49	0.0	37	0.0	4,325	0.0	495	0.0
69	0.0	5,168	0.0	80	0.0	54	0.0	7,455	0.0	860	0.0
24	0.0	1,868	0.0	22	0.0	20	0.0	2,176	0.0	236	0.0
4,058	0.8	1,012,757	3.7	11,218	4.3	20,317	6.0	1,658,547	7.6	171,706	5.0
2,792	0.5	532,813	2.0	4,187	1.6	6,677	2.0	994,186	4.6	102,952	3.0
4,822	0.9	748,973	2.8	4,886	1.9	7,692	2.3	1,553,534	7.1	146,398	4.3
1,477	0.3	247,159	0.9	1,524	0.6	3,052	0.9	277,796	1.3	34,635	1.0
94	0.0	24,541	0.1	961	0.4	1,269	0.4	43,698	0.2	3,058	0.1
31	0.0	4,032	0.0	59	0.0	132	0.0	10,667	0.0	755	0.0
20	0.0	4,401	0.0	57	0.0	121	0.0	10,406	0.0	762	0.0
0	0.0	1,240	0.0	20	0.0	65	0.0	2,085	0.0	162	0.0
27	0.0	15,239	0.1	680	0.3	451	0.1	18,399	0.1	1,761	0.1
4	0.0	994	0.0	24	0.0	35	0.0	2,286	0.0	137	0.0
2	0.0	1,515	0.0	23	0.0	44	0.0	3,419	0.0	263	0.0
0	0.0	492	0.0	11	0.0	18	0.0	764	0.0	62	0.0
369	0.1	61,221	0.2	1,744	0.7	2,689	0.8	127,079	0.6	11,600	0.3
144	0.0	7,605	0.0	93	0.0	174	0.1	13,305	0.1	1,749	0.1
151	0.0	9,508	0.0	106	0.0	180	0.1	16,403	0.1	2,111	0.1
134	0.0	6,033	0.0	90	0.0	109	0.0	5,830	0.0	1,137	0.0
519,708	100.0	27,132,850	100.0	263,712	100.0	340,129	100.0	21,781,625	100.0	3,410,669	100.0

SCOTLAND

As in England and Wales, in Scotland the greatest proportion of the Muslim population resides in households of the type 'Married or civil registration couples with one (or two or more dependent children)' – 51.8%. Unlike the England and Wales Census output, there is data on the gender of the head of household in the household category 'Lone parent family'. In these households with dependent children, 7.0% of Scottish Muslims reside with a female head of household, and 0.8% where it is a male.



S5.T28a: Household composition by usual residents by Religion of HRP – S

Household Composition	All Religions		Muslim		Hindu		Jewish	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
One-person:								
Aged 66 years and over	358,383	6.7	571	0.5	217	0.8	499	9.1
Other	571,589	10.7	6,587	5.7	1,581	5.8	778	14.2
One family and no others:								
All aged 66 years and over	433,878	8.1	647	0.6	339	1.2	676	12.4
Lone parent family with male head:								
With one dependent child	22,984	0.4	355	0.3	65	0.2	10	0.2
With two or more dependent children	19,676	0.4	549	0.5	63	0.2	13	0.2
All children non-dependent	46,241	0.9	453	0.4	64	0.2	28	0.5
Lone parent family with female head:								
With one dependent child	158,282	3.0	2,505	2.1	227	0.8	115	2.1
With two or more dependent children	198,461	3.7	5,680	4.9	252	0.9	102	1.9
All children non dependent	179,719	3.4	2,239	1.9	217	0.8	123	2.3
Other household types								
With one dependent child	75,366	1.4	4,172	3.6	673	2.5	35	0.6
With two or more dependent children	84,857	1.6	10,746	9.2	744	2.7	35	0.6
All in full-time education	49,943	0.9	1,368	1.2	1,012	3.7	302	5.5
All aged 66 and over	8,268	0.2	14	0.0	18	0.1	8	0.1
Other	166,378	3.1	4,341	3.7	1,340	4.9	262	4.8
All Categories: Household Composition	5,331,774	100.0	116,527	100.0	27,323	100.0	5,465	100.0

Sikh		Christian		Buddhist		Other religion		No religion		Not stated	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
126	1.2	235,948	11.4	705	4.9	1,328	4.4	94,571	3.5	24,420	7.5
525	4.9	203,431	9.8	2,576	17.8	7,326	24.0	316,490	11.6	32,296	9.9
270	2.5	278,360	13.4	514	3.6	940	3.1	118,007	4.3	34,130	10.5
37	0.3	6,152	0.3	59	0.4	181	0.6	14,657	0.5	1,471	0.5
11	0.1	5,095	0.2	35	0.2	93	0.3	12,330	0.5	1,481	0.5
76	0.7	18,407	0.9	105	0.7	277	0.9	23,193	0.9	3,632	1.1
193	1.8	42,664	2.1	354	2.4	1,091	3.6	102,827	3.8	8,307	2.5
206	1.9	46,234	2.2	274	1.9	821	2.7	132,570	4.9	12,318	3.8
244	2.3	73,611	3.5	396	2.7	1,308	4.3	88,685	3.3	12,891	4.0
791	7.3	26,058	1.3	229	1.6	448	1.5	37,272	1.4	5,688	1.7
1,365	12.7	25,489	1.2	167	1.2	303	1.0	38,623	1.4	7,385	2.3
79	0.7	10,888	0.5	357	2.5	539	1.8	30,248	1.1	5,153	1.6
6	0.1	5,288	0.3	19	0.1	22	0.1	2,009	0.1	885	0.3
639	5.9	54,425	2.6	815	5.6	1,833	6.0	88,357	3.2	14,356	4.4
10,776	100.0	2,075,598	100.0	14,463	100.0	30,519	100.0	2,725,192	100.0	325,906	100.0


S5.T28b: Household composition by usual residents by Religion of HRP – S

Household Composition	All Religions		Muslim		Hindu		Jewish	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Married couple family:								
No children	559,342	10.5	5,083	4.4	2,696	9.9	666	12.2
With one dependent child	404,987	7.6	12,543	10.8	7,217	26.4	327	6.0
With two or more dependent children	804,243	15.1	47,773	41.0	8,692	31.8	661	12.1
All children non dependent	437,537	8.2	6,835	5.9	988	3.6	273	5.0
Civil partnership couple family:								
No children	2,916	0.1	10	0.0	3	0.0	7	0.1
With one dependent child	1,740	0.0	14	0.0	6	0.0	3	0.1
With two or more dependent children	2,504	0.0	91	0.1	7	0.0	1	0.0
All children non dependent	811	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Cohabiting couple family:								
No children	308,764	5.8	921	0.8	400	1.5	358	6.6
With one dependent child	162,826	3.1	712	0.6	216	0.8	82	1.5
With two or more dependent children	215,250	4.0	2,052	1.8	246	0.9	87	1.6
All children non dependent	56,829	1.1	262	0.2	40	0.1	14	0.3
All Categories: Household Composition	5,331,774	100.0	116,527	100.0	27,323	100.0	5,465	100.0

Sikh		Christian		Buddhist		Other religion		No religion		Not stated	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
595	5.5	259,284	12.5	1,947	13.5	3,338	10.9	254,673	9.3	31,072	9.5
1,301	12.1	139,014	6.7	1,503	10.4	1,616	5.3	221,701	8.1	19,761	6.1
2,747	25.5	268,680	12.9	2,054	14.2	2,383	7.8	430,189	15.8	41,069	12.6
1,136	10.5	200,149	9.6	749	5.2	1,673	5.5	197,142	7.2	28,593	8.8
1	0.0	848	0.0	45	0.3	35	0.1	1,802	0.1	161	0.0
5	0.0	508	0.0	6	0.0	20	0.1	1,094	0.0	84	0.0
4	0.0	650	0.0	17	0.1	15	0.0	1,608	0.1	110	0.0
0	0.0	308	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0	462	0.0	36	0.0
135	1.3	77,955	3.8	950	6.6	3,060	10.0	210,213	7.7	14,766	4.5
119	1.1	36,172	1.7	203	1.4	765	2.5	116,283	4.3	8,277	2.5
136	1.3	41,149	2.0	291	2.0	812	2.7	156,906	5.8	13,572	4.2
29	0.3	18,831	0.9	91	0.6	289	0.9	33,280	1.2	3,992	1.2
10,776	100.0	2,075,598	100.0	14,463	100.0	30,519	100.0	2,725,192	100.0	325,906	100.0

NORTHERN IRELAND

As in England and Wales, and Scotland the greatest proportion of the Muslim population resides in households of the type 'Married or civil registration couples with one (or two or more dependent children)' – 51.7%. Moreover, as in Scotland, in 'Lone parent family' households with dependent children, 9% of Muslims reside with a female head of household, and 1% where it is a male.



S5.T29a: Household composition by usual residents by Religion of HRP – NI

Household Composition	All Religions		Muslim		Hindu		Christian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
One-person:								
Aged 66 years and over	91,673	4.9	29	0.3	40	1.0	80,950	5.4
Other	142,974	7.6	670	6.3	150	3.7	106,760	7.1
Single family household:								
All aged 66 and over	121,821	6.5	42	0.4	60	1.5	108,792	7.3
Other family composition	21,399	1.1	193	1.8	73	1.8	15,947	1.1
Lone parent family (male):								
One dependent child	6,521	0.3	43	0.4	3	0.1	4,663	0.3
Two or more dependent children	5,194	0.3	67	0.6	3	0.1	3,825	0.3
All children non-dependent	22,556	1.2	52	0.5	7	0.2	18,167	1.2
Lone parent family (female):								
One dependent child	63,180	3.4	230	2.2	17	0.4	48,223	3.2
Two or more dependent children	123,469	6.6	716	6.8	24	0.6	96,615	6.4
All children non-dependent	78,408	4.2	172	1.6	67	1.7	63,991	4.3
Other household types								
All aged 66 and over	1,711	0.1	0	0.0	9	0.2	1,418	0.1
All in full-time education	7,167	0.4	99	0.9	132	3.3	4,690	0.3
One dependent child	33,216	1.8	201	1.9	110	2.7	27,010	1.8
Two or more dependent children	46,613	2.5	603	5.7	114	2.8	37,676	2.5
Other family composition	48,992	2.6	725	6.9	240	5.9	33,803	2.3
All Categories: Household Composition	1,876,820	100.0	10,563	100.0	4,040	100.0	1,499,142	100.0

Household Composition	Buddhist		Other religion		No religion		Not Stated	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
One-person:								
Aged 66 years and over	37	2.5	517	5.9	7,159	2.2	2,941	11.2
Other	220	15.1	1,036	11.9	31,474	9.6	2,664	10.2
Single family household:								
All aged 66 and over	16	1.1	595	6.8	9,550	2.9	2,766	10.5
Other family composition	12	0.8	132	1.5	4,459	1.4	583	2.2
Lone parent family (male):								
One dependent child	6	0.4	43	0.5	1,603	0.5	160	0.6
Two or more dependent children	2	0.1	21	0.2	1,148	0.4	128	0.5
All children non-dependent	11	0.8	97	1.1	3,848	1.2	374	1.4
Lone parent family (female):								
One dependent child	44	3.0	236	2.7	13,597	4.2	833	3.2
Two or more dependent children	40	2.7	358	4.1	23,621	7.2	2,095	8.0
All children non-dependent	52	3.6	364	4.2	12,623	3.9	1,139	4.3
Other household types								
All aged 66 and over	0	0.0	10	0.1	156	0.0	118	0.4
All in full-time education	30	2.1	54	0.6	2,103	0.6	59	0.2
One dependent child	38	2.6	164	1.9	5,223	1.6	470	1.8
Two or more dependent children	34	2.3	199	2.3	6,739	2.1	1,248	4.8
Other family composition	91	6.2	396	4.5	12,704	3.9	1,033	3.9
All Categories: Household Composition	1,460	100.0	8,714	100.0	326,659	100.0	26,242	100.0


S5.T29b: Household composition by usual residents by Religion of HRP – NI

Household Composition	All Religions		Muslim		Hindu		Christian	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Single family household:								
Married or civil partnership couple:								
No children	142,430	7.6	498	4.7	343	8.5	114,887	7.7
One dependent child	147,787	7.9	1,110	10.5	1,009	25.0	116,783	7.8
Two or more dependent children	399,714	21.3	4,352	41.2	1,348	33.4	328,671	21.9
All children non-dependent	215,678	11.5	379	3.6	179	4.4	183,716	12.3
Cohabiting couple family:								
No children	60,481	3.2	89	0.8	40	1.0	37,988	2.5
One dependent child	34,332	1.8	57	0.5	34	0.8	22,462	1.5
Two or more dependent children	50,633	2.7	222	2.1	30	0.7	34,065	2.3
All children non-dependent	10,871	0.6	14	0.1	8	0.2	8,040	0.5
All Categories: Household Composition	1,876,820	100.0	10,563	100.0	4,040	100.0	1,499,142	100.0

UK wide, 1,791,000 Muslims reside in married households with dependent children; England and Wales (1,725,000); Scotland (60,000); Northern Ireland (5,000).

Household Composition	Buddhist		Other religion		No religion		Not Stated	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Single family household:								
Married or civil partnership couple:								
No children	160	11.0	720	8.3	24,370	7.5	1,452	5.5
One dependent child	176	12.1	681	7.8	26,813	8.2	1,215	4.6
Two or more dependent children	214	14.7	1,542	17.7	60,590	18.5	2,997	11.4
All children non-dependent	148	10.1	804	9.2	28,173	8.6	2,279	8.7
Cohabiting couple family:								
No children	80	5.5	313	3.6	21,426	6.6	545	2.1
One dependent child	18	1.2	184	2.1	11,222	3.4	355	1.4
Two or more dependent children	21	1.4	213	2.4	15,435	4.7	647	2.5
All children non-dependent	10	0.7	35	0.4	2,623	0.8	141	0.5
All Categories: Household Composition	1,460	100.0	8,714	100.0	326,659	100.0	26,242	100.0

UK wide, 379,516 Muslims reside in lone parent families with dependent children. Moreover at the UK level, 180,161 Muslims reside in one-person households.

Observations

- The traditional family structure is the norm for Muslims. It is at the core of how values are passed on from one generation to the next. Muslims are less likely to be cohabiting than the population as a whole, reflecting cultural and religious values. Generally, Muslims incline to social conservatism in these matters. At a broader level, the traditional family contributes to social stability and hence positive civic participation.
- A greater proportion of Muslim women are engaged in caring for family. While in official statistics they are considered 'economically inactive', they are anything but inactive.
- While there are one-person Muslim households where the resident is 66 years and over, the proportion is much lower than that for the overall population -0.3% compared with 4.9%. This again is due to the tradition of caring for elderly parents and relatives as extended family within one home.
- About 110,000 of all Muslim households (10.3%) are in the 'Lone parent with dependent children' household type category. There is need for Muslim civil society to understand these households' circumstances and support needs. For example, there may be a demand for counselling and support services at mosques provided by female staff for female single parents.

British Muslims exhibit strong family values and resilience that help keep Muslim heritage children out of the child care system [. . .] For many British Muslims, Islam plays a central role in shaping a home environment that prioritises children's emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing. The family unit is regarded not only as essential for individual development, but for the strength of society as a whole [. . .]

Sofia Shah and Dr Muhammad Sinnan Siyech. Faith, Family and the Care System: A Missed Connection? Equi, June 2025.

Some religious values are pertinent to Muslim family life, hence providing an overlapping factor impacting on employment or business choices. Not underestimating the relevance of contemporary debates on the role of husbands and wives, among Muslims there is a conventional cultural acknowledgement (not religiously mandated) that women are homemakers and men are breadwinners. This stems from religious traditions that emphasise the role of mothers in the upbringing of children and men as the providers of households (though also underlining that a working woman's earnings are her own to share, save or spend).

Raising children, caring for their welfare and ensuring education is assumed to be the primary responsibility of the wife/mother within the family. This could restrict the business and employment choices of Muslim women. Returning to work after a substantial period of time bringing up children could be difficult.

Dr Asma Mustafa (Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies) and Professor Anthony Heath, CBE, FBA (Centre for Social Investigation, Nuffield College, Oxford). Written submission, Employment opportunities for Muslims in the UK. <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/65005/html/> 2016

5.4 VOTING

5.4.1 THE 'MUSLIM VOTE'

Muslims – like adherents to all religions – are not homogeneous. The reasons for their voting choices are varied, with some aligned to the broader population but some that appear more prevalent specifically amongst Muslim voters. Therefore, whilst care must be taken to not assume Muslim voters to be a homogeneous block, there is value in understanding the distribution of Muslim voters, which this section tackles.

In 2024, there were 543 parliamentary constituencies in England, 32 in Wales, 57 in Scotland and 18 in Northern Ireland.

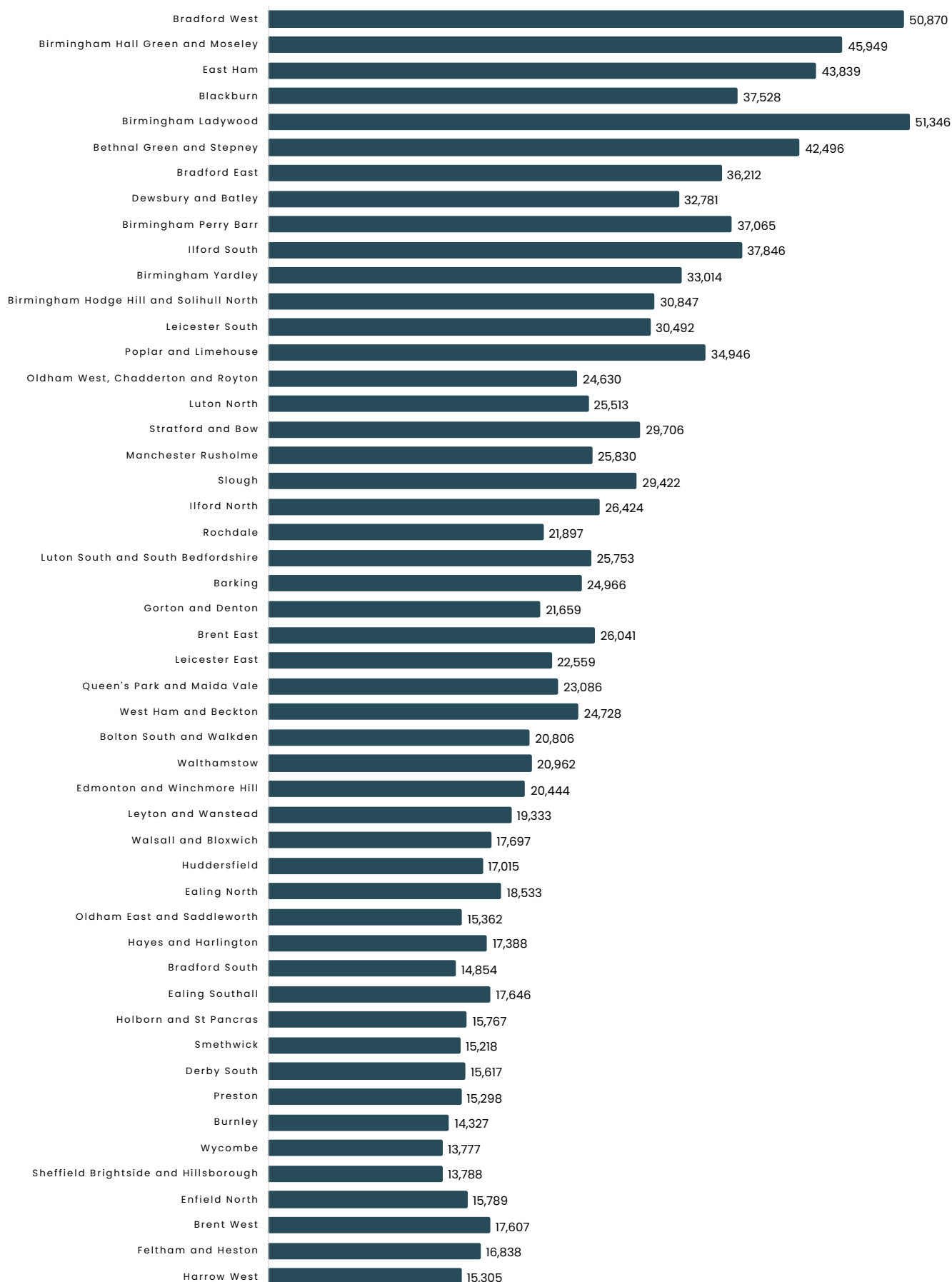
An analysis of the parliamentary constituencies in the 4 July 2024 General Election indicates that in 50 constituencies ranked in order of Muslim population (% of Muslims aged 18 years and over compared with the overall), there are 32 constituencies with 20% or more Muslim populations.

There was an unprecedented level of political engagement in the General Election, with the Muslim Council of Britain leading a campaign to increase voter registration and raise voter awareness of the policy pledges sought from prospective parliamentary candidates. The 'Muslim vote' was a factor in the election of four independent MPs, and the voting pattern was determined by an informed choice.¹

¹ <https://muslimnews.co.uk/newspaper/interview/independent-triumph-a-new-era-in-british-politics/>

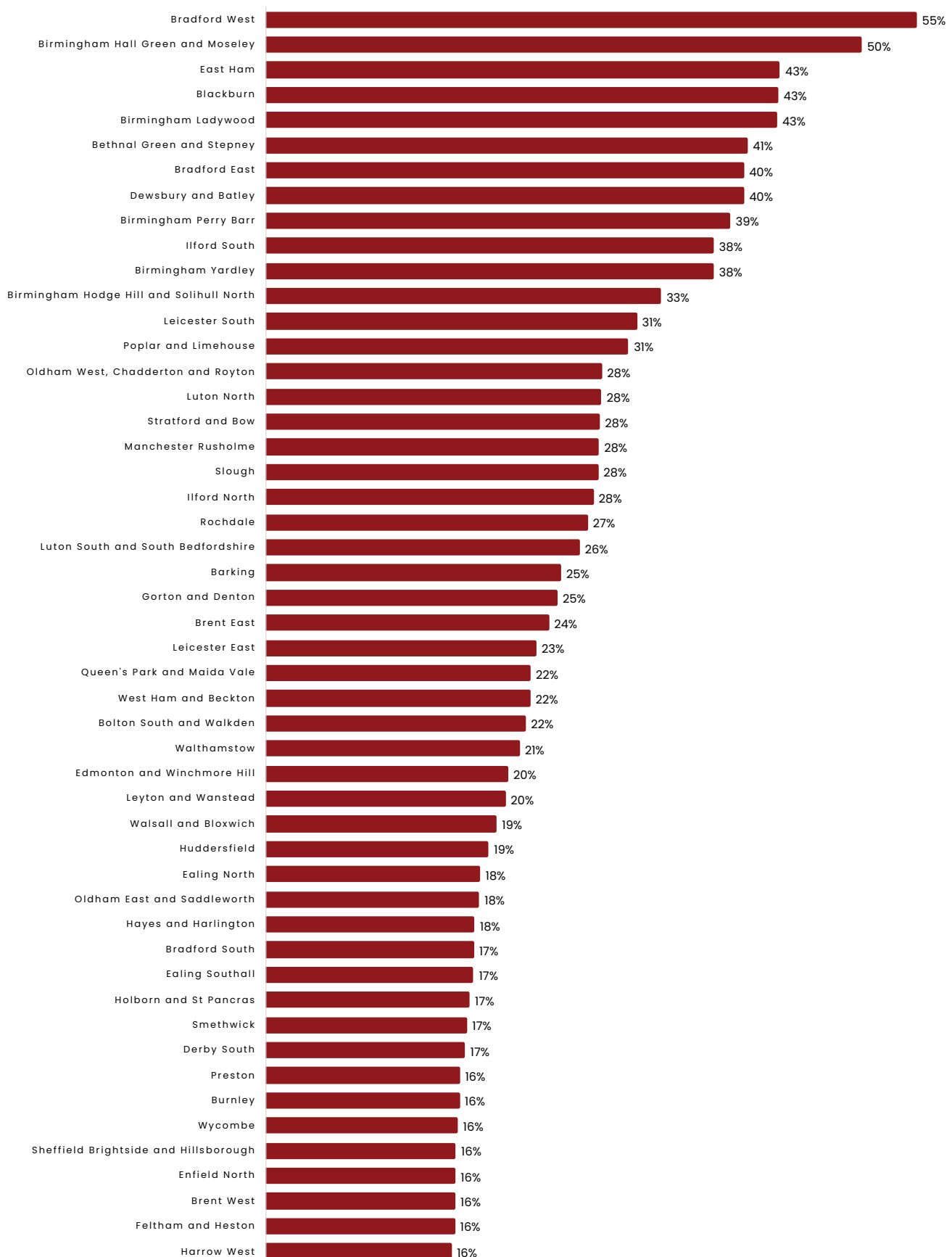


S5.F12: Parliamentary constituencies, top 50 ranked by Muslim population number aged 18 years & above on 4 July 2024 – E&W





S5.F13: Parliamentary constituencies, top 50 ranked by Muslim population % aged 18 years & above on 4 July 2024 – E&W





**THE MCB HAS BEEN LEADING CAMPAIGNS
FOR VOTER REGISTRATION.**

5.4.2 VOTING RESULTS IN SELECT PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

A feature of the 2024 General Election was the success of independent candidates, a number of whom were from constituencies with significant Muslim populations.

S5.T30a: Parliamentary constituencies, top 50 ranked by Muslim population %, 2024 General Election outcome – E&W



Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Name	Numer of Muslim aged 18 and over	Muslim as % of All Religions	Elected Member 4th July 2024	Result
Bradford West	50,870	55.0	Naz Shah	Lab hold
Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley	45,949	50.3	Tahir Ali	Lab hold
East Ham	43,839	43.4	Stephen Timms	Lab hold
Blackburn	37,528	43.2	Adnan Hussain	Ind gain
Birmingham Ladywood	51,346	43.1	Shabana Mahmood	Lab hold
Bethnal Green and Stepney	42,496	40.6	Rushanara Ali	Lab hold
Bradford East	36,212	40.3	Imran Hussain	Lab hold
Dewsbury and Batley	32,781	40.3	Iqbal Mohamed	Ind gain
Birmingham Perry Barr	37,065	39.2	Ayoub Khan	Ind gain
Ilford South	37,846	37.8	Jas Athwal	Lab hold
Birmingham Yardley	33,014	37.8	Jess Phillips	Lab hold
Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North	30,847	33.3	Liam Byrne	Lab hold
Leicester South	30,492	31.3	Shockat Adam	Ind gain
Poplar and Limehouse	34,946	30.6	Apsana Begum	Lab hold
Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton	24,630	28.3	Jim McMahon	Lab hold
Luton North	25,513	28.3	Sarah Owen	Lab hold
Stratford and Bow	29,706	28.1	Uma Kumaran	Lab hold
Manchester Rusholme	25,830	28.0	Afzal Khan	Lab hold
Slough	29,422	28.0	Tan Dhesi	Lab hold
Ilford North	26,424	27.6	Wes Streeting	Lab hold
Rochdale	21,897	27.1	Paul Waugh	Lab hold
Luton South and South Bedfordshire	25,753	26.4	Rachel Hopkins	Lab hold
Barking	24,966	24.8	Nesil Caliskan	Lab hold
Gorton and Denton*	21,659	24.5	Andrew Gwynne	Lab hold
Brent East	26,041	23.8	Dawn Butler	Lab hold

*Greens' MP Hannah Spencer elected, Feb 2026

Majority	Con	Lab	LD	RUK	Green	All other candidates	Vote for winning other candidate
707	3,055	11,724	756	2,958	3,690	14,898	-
5,656	3,845	12,798	4,711	2,305	3,913	14,034	-
12,863	3,876	19,570	1,210	1,340	4,226	7,670	-
132	3,474	10,386	689	4,844	1,416	18,078	10,518
3,421	2,218	15,558	1,711	1,477	3,478	12,137	-
1,689	1,920	15,896	4,777	1,964	6,391	15,699	-
6,189	3,450	14,098	1,910	4,952	2,571	10,235	-
6,934	4,182	8,707	1,340	6,152	2,048	15,641	15,641
507	4,227	12,796	1,302	2,446	2,440	14,265	13,303
6,894	6,142	16,537	1,340	2,329	3,437	11,385	-
693	3,634	11,275	3,634	5,061	1,958	10,582	-
1,566	4,634	10,655	942	6,456	2,360	9,089	-
979	4,820	13,760	1,425	2,470	3,826	15,536	14,739
12,560	4,738	18,535	4,189	3,403	5,975	6,211	-
4,976	4,066	13,232	1,271	6,848	1,857	11,299	-
7,510	7,167	14,677	1,890	4,666	1,940	8,405	-
11,634	3,114	19,145	1,926	2,093	7,511	9,646	-
8,235	1,678	15,054	0	1,313	6,819	4,169	-
3,647	7,457	14,666	2,060	3,352	1,873	13,870	-
528	9,619	15,647	1,088	3,621	1,794	15,119	-
1,440	4,273	13,027	2,816	6,773	1,212	11,587	-
6,858	6,735	13,593	2,400	4,759	2,401	8,494	-
11,054	4,294	16,227	1,015	5,173	4,988	4,780	-
13,413	2,888	18,555	1,399	5,142	4,810	3,766	-
13,047	6,323	19,370	2,635	2,024	3,729	3,721	-

S5.T30b: Parliamentary constituencies, top 50 ranked by Muslim population %, 2024 General Election outcome – E&W



Westminster Parliamentary Constituency Name	Numer of Muslim aged 18 and over	Muslim as % of All Religions	Elected Member 4th July 2024	Result
Leicester East	22,559	22.8	Shivani Raja	Con gain
Queen's Park and Maida Vale	23,086	22.3	Georgia Gould	Lab hold
West Ham and Beckton	24,728	22.2	James Asser	Lab hold
Bolton South and Walkden	20,806	21.9	Yasmin Qureshi	Lab hold
Walthamstow	20,962	21.3	Stella Creasy	Lab hold
Edmonton and Winchmore Hill	20,444	20.4	Kate Osamor	Lab hold
Leyton and Wanstead	19,333	20.1	Calvin Bailey	Lab hold
Walsall and Bloxwich	17,697	19.4	Valerie Vaz	Lab gain
Huddersfield	17,015	18.7	Harpreet Uppal	Lab hold
Ealing North	18,533	18.0	James Murray	Lab hold
Oldham East and Saddleworth	15,362	17.9	Debbie Abrahams	Lab hold
Hayes and Harlington	17,388	17.5	John McDonnell	Lab hold
Bradford South	14,854	17.5	Judith Cummins	Lab hold
Ealing Southall	17,646	17.4	Deirdre Costigan	Lab hold
Holborn and St Pancras	15,767	17.1	Keir Starmer	Lab hold
Smethwick	15,218	16.9	Gurinder Josan	Lab hold
Derby South	15,617	16.7	Baggy Shanker	Lab hold
Preston	15,298	16.3	Mark Hendrick	Lab hold
Burnley	14,327	16.3	Oliver Ryan	Lab gain
Wycombe	13,777	16.1	Emma Reynolds	Lab gain
Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough	13,788	15.9	Gill Furniss	Lab hold
Enfield North	15,789	15.9	Feryal Clark	Lab hold
Brent West	17,607	15.9	Barry Gardiner	Lab hold
Feltham and Heston	16,838	15.9	Seema Malhotra	Lab hold
Harrow West	15,305	15.6	Gareth Thomas	Lab hold

Majority	Con	Lab	LD	RUK	Green	All other candidates	Vote for winning other candidate
4,426	14,526	10,100	6,329	2,611	2,143	11,005	-
14,913	5,088	20,126	3,417	2,106	5,213	2,393	-
9,254	3,781	16,434	1,606	2,800	3,897	7,830	-
6,743	4,170	15,093	1,384	8,350	2,827	5,106	-
17,996	2,353	27,172	1,736	1,836	9,176	3,395	-
12,632	7,888	20,520	2,721	3,501	3,681	2,734	-
13,964	4,846	20,755	2,815	2,475	6,791	6,050	-
4,914	6,679	12,514	817	7,293	2,288	7,600	-
4,533	6,559	15,101	1,741	6,196	10,568	0	-
12,519	8,144	20,663	2,543	3,948	4,056	3,878	-
6,357	6,838	14,091	3,386	7,734	1,490	6,526	-
12,031	8,374	20,405	1,316	4,114	2,131	1,975	-
4,392	4,853	11,833	954	7,441	3,366	4,595	-
15,793	7,207	23,000	2,832	2,585	4,356	6,836	-
11,572	2,776	18,884	2,236	2,371	4,030	8,305	-
11,188	4,546	16,858	1,018	5,670	2,741	4,282	-
6,002	5,192	14,503	1,807	8,501	1,899	5,497	-
5,291	5,212	14,006	3,195	5,738	1,751	10,091	-
3,420	8,058	12,598	9,178	7,755	1,518	612	-
4,591	11,444	16,035	4,236	4,769	2,193	5,960	-
11,600	4,069	16,301	1,694	0	4,701	4,847	-
12,736	8,632	21,368	2,517	5,146	3,713	2,116	-
3,793	13,465	17,258	3,013	2,061	2,805	2,774	-
7,944	8,195	16,139	1,821	5,130	2,543	5,059	-
6,642	13,191	19,833	2,404	2,639	2,438	4,736	-

5.4.3 POSSIBLE IMPACT OF FIRST-TIME VOTERS IN THE 2029 WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Reduction in the voting age to 16 or 18 years is estimated to lead to an increase in electorate by 1.4 million in England. With the young age profile of the Muslim population, this will result in a greater increase in Muslim voters, compared with other Minority Faiths.



S5.T31: Estimate of population of voting age by Religion in 2029 – E

Religion	Eligible Voters Age 16 +				Eligible Voters Age 18 +				Additional Eligible Voters	
	First Time Voters		Total Electorate		First Time Voters		Total Electorate		Increase in Electorate	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	532,000	11.1	3,221,000	6.3	378,000	11.1	3,068,000	6.1	154,000	11.2
Christian	1,842,000	38.4	24,546,000	47.7	1,314,000	38.5	24,018,000	48.0	528,000	38.2
Buddhist	13,000	0.3	251,000	0.5	9,000	0.3	247,000	0.5	4,000	0.3
Hindu	92,000	1.9	916,000	1.8	63,000	1.8	887,000	1.8	29,000	2.1
Jewish	26,000	0.5	241,000	0.5	18,000	0.5	234,000	0.5	8,000	0.6
Sikh	48,000	1.0	468,000	0.9	34,000	1.0	454,000	0.9	14,000	1.0
Other religion	15,000	0.3	318,000	0.6	11,000	0.3	313,000	0.6	4,000	0.3
No religion	1,939,000	40.4	18,440,000	35.8	1,383,000	40.5	17,884,000	35.7	556,000	40.3
Not stated	287,000	6.0	3,045,000	5.9	203,000	5.9	2,961,000	5.9	84,000	6.1
All religions	4,794,000	100.0	51,446,000	100.0	3,413,000	100.0	50,066,000	100.0	1,381,000	100.0

The overall increase in electorate in Wales and Scotland is estimated to be 73,000 and 117,000 respectively; the increase in potential Muslim vote in Wales and Scotland is estimated to be 3,000 and 5,000 respectively.



S5.T32: Estimate of population of voting age by Religion in 2029 – W

Religion	Eligible Voters Age 16 +				Eligible Voters Age 18 +				Additional Eligible Voters	
	First Time Voters		Total Electorate		First Time Voters		Total Electorate		Increase in Electorate	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	9,200	0.2	56,300	0.1	6,400	0.2	53,600	0.1	2,800	0.2
Christian	84,300	1.8	1,288,200	2.5	60,500	1.8	1,264,400	2.5	23,800	1.7
Buddhist	400	0.0	9,800	0.0	300	0.0	9,700	0.0	100	0.0
Hindu	1,000	0.0	11,000	0.0	700	0.0	10,700	0.0	300	0.0
Jewish	100	0.0	2,000	0.0	100	0.0	2,000	0.0	0	0.0
Sikh	400	0.0	3,600	0.0	300	0.0	3,500	0.0	100	0.0
Other religion	500	0.0	15,500	0.0	400	0.0	15,400	0.0	100	0.0
No religion	143,100	3.0	1,287,100	2.5	102,200	3.0	1,246,200	2.5	40,900	3.0
Not stated	16,700	0.3	176,000	0.3	11,800	0.3	171,100	0.3	4,900	0.4
All religions	255,700	5.3	2,849,500	5.5	182,700	5.4	2,776,600	5.5	73,000	5.3



S5.T33: Estimate of population of voting age by Religion in 2029 – S

Religion	Eligible Voters Age 16 +				Eligible Voters Age 18 +				Additional Eligible Voters	
	First Time Voters		Total Electorate		First Time Voters		Total Electorate		Increase in Electorate	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Muslim	16,000	0.3	99,000	0.2	11,300	0.3	94,300	0.2	4,700	0.3
Christian	118,900	2.5	1,999,800	3.9	86,500	2.5	1,967,400	3.9	32,400	2.3
Buddhist	600	0.0	14,900	0.0	400	0.0	14,700	0.0	200	0.0
Hindu	2,600	0.1	25,500	0.0	1,700	0.0	24,600	0.0	900	0.1
Jewish	300	0.0	5,600	0.0	200	0.0	5,500	0.0	100	0.0
Sikh	1,100	0.0	9,700	0.0	800	0.0	9,400	0.0	300	0.0
Other religion	900	0.0	30,700	0.1	700	0.0	30,400	0.1	200	0.0
No religion	250,200	5.2	2,475,500	4.8	179,500	5.3	2,404,800	4.8	70,700	5.1
Not stated	26,500	0.6	305,100	0.6	19,200	0.6	297,800	0.6	7,300	0.5
All religions	417,100	8.7	4,965,800	9.7	300,300	8.8	4,848,900	9.7	116,800	8.5

Source: Census 2022

5.4.4 ANALYSIS OF MOST MARGINAL SEATS FOLLOWING THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION



S5.T34a: Parliamentary constituencies, 100 most marginal – E, S, W

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency name	Elected Member	First party	Second party	Turnout %	Majority Number	Jul 2024 Muslim Aged 18 + Number	Mar 2029 Muslim Aged 18 + Number
Hendon	David Pinto-Duschinsky	Lab	Con	55.4	15	15,461	17,655
Poole	Neil Duncan-Jordan	Lab	Con	61.6	18	705	772
Basildon and Billericay	Richard Holden	Con	Lab	55.0	20	1,369	1,528
North West Cambridgeshire	Sam Carling	Lab	Con	58.8	39	2,215	2,540
Central Devon	Mel Stride	Con	Lab	71.2	61	148	164
Havant	Alan Mak	Con	Lab	58.5	92	363	397
South Basildon and East Thurrock	James McMurdock	RUK	Lab	54.6	98	1,445	1,614
Peterborough	Andrew Pakes	Lab	Con	57.3	118	15,851	18,420
Exmouth and Exeter East	David Reed	Con	Lab	64.3	121	474	547
Beverley and Holderness	Graham Stuart	Con	Lab	62.6	124	254	288
Blackburn	Adnan Hussain	Ind	Lab	53.3	132	37,528	42,937
Chelsea and Fulham	Ben Coleman	Lab	Con	60.3	152	7,983	8,864
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	Luke Myer	Lab	Con	54.8	214	749	851
Forest of Dean	Matt Bishop	Lab	Con	66.3	278	179	198
Bromley and Biggin Hill	Peter Fortune	Con	Lab	66.4	302	2,160	2,398
Derbyshire Dales	John Whitby	Lab	Con	70.2	350	268	295
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	Kevin McKenna	Lab	Con	52.0	355	1,035	1,139
Ely and East Cambridgeshire	Charlotte Cane	LD	Con	66.4	495	557	610
Birmingham Perry Barr	Ayoub Khan	Ind	Lab	49.4	507	37,065	42,483
Ilford North	Wes Streeting	Lab	Ind	59.8	528	26,424	29,926
Fylde	Andrew Snowden	Con	Lab	62.4	561	495	548
Uxbridge and South Ruislip	Danny Beales	Lab	Con	61.7	587	10,111	11,476
Stoke-on-Trent South	Allison Gardner	Lab	Con	58.7	627	3,434	3,995
Aylesbury	Laura Kyrke-Smith	Lab	Con	63.3	630	6,514	7,472
South West Norfolk	Terry Jermy	Lab	Con	59.5	630	334	373

In the 2024 General Election, there were approximately 100 parliamentary constituencies where the victor's margin of victory was about 2000 votes or less. Within these, taking account the Muslim population aged 18 years or over in 2029, there are about 15 constituencies where this will exceed the 2024 majority by over 10,000.



S5.T34b: Parliamentary constituencies, 100 most marginal – E, S, W

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency name	Elected Member	First party	Second party	Turnout %	Majority Number	Jul 2024 Muslim Aged 18 + Number	Mar 2029 Muslim Aged 18 + Number
North East Hampshire	Alex Brewer	LD	Con	72.4	634	529	600
Ynys Môn	Llinos Medi	PC	Con	61.5	637	232	262
North Somerset	Sadik Al-Hassan	Lab	Con	72.5	639	328	372
Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard	Alex Mayer	Lab	Con	60.2	667	1,519	1,704
Dundee Central	Chris Law	SNP	Lab	52.5	675	3,758	363
Birmingham Yardley	Jess Phillips	Lab	WPB	49.5	693	33,014	38,397
Bradford West	Naz Shah	Lab	Ind	47.9	707	50,870	58,192
Broadland and Fakenham	Jerome Mayhew	Con	Lab	64.7	719	190	203
Portsmouth North	Amanda Martin	Lab	Con	59.3	780	1,832	2,081
Bracknell	Peter Swallow	Lab	Con	61.4	784	1,346	1,498
Redditch	Chris Bloore	Lab	Con	59.8	789	2,620	2,949
Lichfield	Dave Robertson	Lab	Con	64.7	810	351	390
Wyre Forest	Mark Garnier	Con	Lab	58.6	812	700	865
Earley and Woodley	Yuan Yang	Lab	Con	63.2	848	6,168	7,146
Ribble Valley	Maya Ellis	Lab	Con	64.9	856	2,575	2,967
Arbroath and Broughty Ferry	Stephen Gethins	SNP	Lab	58.1	859	724	2,518
Gordon and Buchan	Harriet Cross	Con	SNP	63.2	878	302	638
The Wrekin	Mark Pritchard	Con	Lab	63.6	883	2,772	3,196
Godalming and Ash	Jeremy Hunt	Con	LD	72.3	891	623	713
Pendle and Clitheroe	Jonathan Hinder	Lab	Con	59.5	902	12,312	14,338
Dumfries and Galloway	John Cooper	Con	SNP	58.5	930	315	990
Aberdeenshire North and Moray East	Seamus Logan	SNP	Con	54.8	942	177	876
Leicester South	Shockat Adam	Ind	Lab	59.3	979	30,492	34,526
Rother Valley	Jake Richards	Lab	Con	60.1	998	1,274	1,458
Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey	Graham Leadbitter	SNP	Con	60.5	1,001	226	1,496



S5.T34c: Parliamentary constituencies, 100 most marginal – E, S, W

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency name	Elected Member	First party	Second party	Turnout %	Majority Number	Jul 2024 Muslim Aged 18 + Number	Mar 2029 Muslim Aged 18 + Number
North West Leicestershire	Amanda Hack	Lab	Con	62.6	1,012	302	337
South Dorset	Lloyd Hatton	Lab	Con	64.8	1,048	374	401
Suffolk Coastal	Jenny Riddell-Carpenter	Lab	Con	66.6	1,070	395	438
Tatton	Esther McVey	Con	Lab	70.2	1,136	1,278	1,421
Harwich and North Essex	Bernard Jenkin	Con	Lab	63.2	1,162	632	700
Staffordshire Moorlands	Karen Bradley	Con	Lab	62.2	1,175	176	194
Dartford	Jim Dickson	Lab	Con	59.3	1,192	2,628	3,052
Clwyd North	Gill German	Lab	Con	55.6	1,196	670	759
East Hampshire	Damian Hinds	Con	LD	71.0	1,275	329	362
Hereford and South Herefordshire	Jesse Norman	Con	Lab	63.3	1,279	362	405
Mid Bedfordshire	Blake Stephenson	Con	Lab	66.0	1,321	1,056	1,193
Bridgwater	Ashley Fox	Con	Lab	56.3	1,349	415	459
Farnham and Bordon	Greg Stafford	Con	LD	70.1	1,349	998	1,103
Mid Dorset and North Poole	Vikki Slade	LD	Con	66.8	1,352	315	348
Reading West and Mid Berkshire	Olivia Bailey	Lab	Con	67.9	1,361	1,983	2,302
Tamworth	Sarah Edwards	Lab	Con	58.5	1,382	519	558
Stirling and Strathallan	Chris Kane	Lab	SNP	65.6	1,394	730	278
Great Yarmouth	Rupert Lowe	RUK	Lab	55.7	1,426	530	582
Rochdale	Paul Waugh	Lab	WPB	54.9	1,440	21,897	25,114
Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket	Peter Prinsley	Lab	Con	65.1	1,452	404	434
Romford	Andrew Rosindell	Con	Lab	60.6	1,463	5,705	6,315
Faversham and Mid Kent	Helen Whately	Con	Lab	62.9	1,469	710	815
Brecon, Radnor and Cwm Tawe	David Chadwick	LD	Con	63.8	1,472	198	227
Huntingdon	Ben Obese-Jecty	Con	Lab	66.1	1,499	1,503	1,687
Llanelli	Nia Griffith	Lab	RUK	57.1	1,504	350	404


S5.T34d: Parliamentary constituencies, 100 most marginal – E, S, W

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency name	Elected Member	First party	Second party	Turnout %	Majority Number	Jul 2024 Muslim Aged 18 + Number	Mar 2029 Muslim Aged 18 + Number
Eastleigh	Liz Jarvis	LD	Con	66.5	1,546	887	1,024
Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North	Liam Byrne	Lab	WPB	44.1	1,566	30,847	36,084
North Dorset	Simon Hoare	Con	LD	68.6	1,589	218	232
Spelthorne	Lincoln Jopp	Con	Lab	62.8	1,590	2,906	3,238
South Shropshire	Stuart Anderson	Con	LD	67.6	1,624	213	247
Keighley and Ilkley	Robbie Moore	Con	Lab	62.3	1,625	10,859	12,648
Skipton and Ripon	Julian Smith	Con	Lab	67.7	1,650	537	636
Maidstone and Maidstone	Helen Grant	Con	Lab	60.9	1,674	1,761	1,980
Hyndburn	Sarah Smith	Lab	Con	54.4	1,687	9,561	11,059
Bethnal Green and Stepney	Rushanara Ali	Lab	Ind	57.7	1,689	42,496	48,224
North East Derbyshire	Louise Jones	Lab	Con	62.8	1,753	258	285
Aberdeen North	Kirsty Blackman	SNP	Lab	55.6	1,760	2,162	4,149
Bognor Regis and Littlehampton	Alison Griffiths	Con	Lab	62.5	1,765	653	714
Ashford	Sojan Joseph	Lab	Con	61.8	1,779	1,400	1,599
Mid Derbyshire	Jonathan Davies	Lab	Con	68.2	1,878	380	433
Mid and South Pembrokeshire	Henry Tufnell	Lab	Con	59.2	1,878	360	410
Dudley	Sonia Kumar	Lab	Con	51.2	1,900	5,102	5,900
South East Cornwall	Anna Gelderd	Lab	Con	68.0	1,911	81	92
North East Hertfordshire	Chris Hinchliff	Lab	Con	67.8	1,923	621	704
Hornchurch and Upminster	Julia Lopez	Con	RUK	62.4	1,943	3,034	3,371
Southend West and Leigh	David Burton-Sampson	Lab	Con	62.7	1,949	1,816	2,125
Chatham and Aylesford	Tristan Osborne	Lab	Con	54.5	1,998	1,874	2,131
Boston and Skegness	Richard Tice	RUK	Con	53.5	2,010	859	937
Lowestoft	Jess Asato	Lab	Con	56.4	2,016	283	319
South West Devon	Rebecca Smith	Con	Lab	67.5	2,112	218	249

5.4.5 CONSTITUENCY ANALYSIS – SIGNIFICANT MUSLIM POPULATION WITH REFERENCE TO MARGIN IN 2024 GENERAL ELECTION



S5.T35: Parliamentary constituencies, Muslim population exceeding 2024 incumbent margin of victory by > 10,000 and < 20,000 – UK

Constituency	Region	MP Name	MP Gender	Result	Majority	Est. March 2029 Muslim Aged 16+	Est. excess in March 2029 of Muslim 16+
Peterborough	East of England	Andrew Pakes	Male	Lab gain from Con	118	19,480	19,362
Barking	London	Nesil Caliskan	Female	Lab hold	11,054	30,295	19,241
Bolton South and Walkden	North West	Yasmin Qureshi	Female	Lab hold	6,743	25,599	18,856
Hendon	London	David Pinto-Duschinsky	Male	Lab gain from Con	15	18,524	18,509
Brent East	London	Dawn Butler	Female	Lab hold	13,047	31,249	18,202
Brent West	London	Barry Gardiner	Male	Lab hold	3,793	20,785	16,992
Walsall and Bloxwich	West Midlands	Valerie Vaz	Female	Lab gain from Con	4,914	21,533	16,619
Huddersfield	Yorkshire and The Humber	Harpreet Uppal	Female	Lab hold	4,533	20,339	15,806
Pendle and Clitheroe	North West	Jonathan Hinder	Male	Lab gain from Con	902	15,077	14,175
Burnley	North West	Oliver Ryan	Male	Lab gain from Con	3,420	17,449	14,029
Bradford South	Yorkshire and The Humber	Judith Cummins	Female	Lab hold	4,392	18,004	13,612
Gorton and Denton	North West	Andrew Gwynne	Male	Lab hold	13,413	26,741	13,328
Cities of London and Westminster	London	Rachel Blake	Female	Lab gain from Con	2,708	15,709	13,001
Derby South	East Midlands	Baggy Shanker	Male	Lab hold	6,002	18,793	12,791
Preston	North West	Mark Hendrick	Male	Lab hold	5,291	17,992	12,701
Kensington and Bayswater	London	Joe Powell	Male	Lab hold	2,903	15,341	12,438
Oldham East and Saddleworth	North West	Debbie Abrahams	Female	Lab hold	6,357	18,718	12,361
Feltham and Heston	London	Seema Malhotra	Female	Lab hold	7,944	20,304	12,360
Queen's Park and Maida Vale	London	Georgia Gould	Female	Lab hold	14,913	27,098	12,185
Edmonton and Winchmore Hill	London	Kate Osamor	Female	Lab hold	12,632	24,774	12,142
Wycombe	South East	Emma Reynolds	Female	Lab gain from Con	4,591	16,491	11,900
Harrow West	London	Gareth Thomas	Male	Lab hold	6,642	18,315	11,673
Keighley and Ilkley	Yorkshire and The Humber	Robbie Moore	Male	Con hold	1,625	13,289	11,664
Uxbridge and South Ruislip	London	Danny Beales	Male	Lab gain from Con	587	12,061	11,474
Hyndburn	North West	Sarah Smith	Female	Lab gain from Con	1,687	11,739	10,052

There are 49 constituencies where the potential Muslim voting population (aged 16 and over in 2029) exceeds the 2024 margin of victory by 10,000 or more.

S5.T36: Parliamentary constituencies, Muslim population exceeding 2024 incumbent margin of victory by > 20,000 – UK



Constituency	Region	MP Name	MP Gender	Result	Majority	Est. March 2029 Muslim Aged 16+	Est. excess in March 2029 of Muslim 16+
Bradford West	Yorkshire and The Humber	Naz Shah	Female	Lab hold	707	60,885	60,178
Birmingham Ladywood	West Midlands	Shabana Mahmood	Female	Lab hold	3,421	62,365	58,944
Birmingham Hall Green and Moseley	West Midlands	Tahir Ali	Male	Lab hold	5,656	54,813	49,157
Bethnal Green and Stepney	London	Rushanara Ali	Female	Lab hold	1,689	50,578	48,889
Blackburn	North West	Adnan Hussain	Male	Ind gain from Lab	132	45,035	44,903
Birmingham Perry Barr	West Midlands	Ayoub Khan	Male	Ind gain from Lab	507	44,587	44,080
Birmingham Yardley	West Midlands	Jess Phillips	Female	Lab hold	693	40,523	39,830
East Ham	London	Stephen Timms	Male	Lab hold	12,863	52,691	39,828
Ilford South	London	Jas Athwal	Male	Lab hold	6,894	45,646	38,752
Bradford East	Yorkshire and The Humber	Imran Hussain	Male	Lab hold	6,189	44,440	38,251
Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North	West Midlands	Liam Byrne	Male	Lab hold	1,566	38,205	36,639
Leicester South	East Midlands	Shockat Adam	Male	Ind gain from Lab	979	36,024	35,045
Slough	South East	Tan Dhesi	Male	Lab hold	3,647	35,831	32,184
Dewsbury and Batley	Yorkshire and The Humber	Iqbal Mohamed	Male	Ind gain from Lab	6,934	38,846	31,912
Ilford North	London	Wes Streeting	Male	Lab hold	528	31,395	30,867
Poplar and Limehouse	London	Apsana Begum	Female	Lab hold	12,560	42,178	29,618
Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton	North West	Jim McMahon	Male	Lab hold	4,976	30,357	25,381
Rochdale	North West	Paul Waugh	Male	Lab hold	1,440	26,402	24,962
Luton South and South Bedfordshire	East of England	Rachel Hopkins	Female	Lab hold	6,858	31,089	24,231
Luton North	East of England	Sarah Owen	Female	Lab hold	7,510	31,430	23,920
Stratford and Bow	London	Uma Kumaran	Female	Lab hold	11,634	34,943	23,309
Manchester Rusholme	North West	Afzal Khan	Male	Lab hold	8,235	31,424	23,189
Leicester East	East Midlands	Shivani Raja	Female	Con gain from Lab	4,426	27,197	22,771
West Ham and Beckton	London	James Asser	Male	Lab hold	9,254	29,429	20,175

Observations

- The MCB is committed to promoting engagement in the political processes of the land, while maintaining a non-partisan stand that does not endorse any particular party or candidate. It conducts voter registration campaigns, and provides affiliates with advice and resources for hustings. Based on surveys of affiliate concerns and wider consultations, the MCB prior to general elections prepares checklists of commitments to be sought from prospective parliamentary candidates.
- As noted earlier, care must be taken not to view British Muslims as one homogenous block. It will always be legitimate for people to organise on issues they care about.

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